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Second survey to begin on Sept. 22

BENGALURU
The second Socio-Educational Survey (popularly called caste census) by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes will be conducted from September 22 to October 7. The commission has been told to submit the final report before October-end. » PAGE 8

FEMA violations: Myntra under ED scanner

BENGALURU
The ED on Wednesday announced that they had taken up a case under FEMA against Myntra Design Private Limited, companies linked to it, and their directors for alleged contravention to the tune of ₹1,654 crore. » PAGE 6

15 lakh Bihar voters yet to submit forms, says EC

Deadline to submit enumeration forms for the SIR on Friday; one lakh voters remain untraceable, says EC; lists of 'primarily incorrectly included electors' shared with booth-level agents, it says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With just two days to go for the July 25 deadline, around 15 lakh Bihar voters are yet to submit their enumeration forms as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) of the State's electoral rolls, according to data from the Election Commission (EC). Another one lakh voters remain untraceable.

More than 98.01% of the electors have been covered by the SIR exercise, the EC said in a statement on Wednesday.

However, 20 lakh people had died, 28 lakh people have permanently migrated, and 7 lakh people have been found enrolled at more than one place, the poll body added.

Strong voice: Opposition MPs protest Bihar electoral roll revision at Parliament premises in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

As part of the first phase of the SIR, lists of all "primarily incorrectly included electors" – those who have been wrongly included in the existing electoral roll – and those who have not yet returned their enumeration forms were shared with 1.5 lakh booth-level agents on June 20, the EC said. These agents have been nominated by the district presidents of the 12 major political parties of Bihar.

Draft roll

The names of electors who have submitted their enumeration forms will be included on the draft electoral roll. The draft roll will be published on August 1, at the completion of the first phase of the SIR exercise.

If there is any error in the draft, any elector or political party can file an objection regarding the inclusion of the name of any proposed elector with the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) or Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) of the Assembly constituency concerned by September 1.

Similarly, if any eligible person does not find their name on the draft electoral roll, they can also file their claims with the ERO or AERO, the poll body said.

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CJI agrees to constitute Bench to hear plea on behalf of Justice Varma

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Wednesday said he will constitute a Bench for hearing a petition filed on behalf of the Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma challenging the in-house inquiry procedure and the then-Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna's recommendation to the President and Prime Minister, in the month of May, to remove the judge from office.

The Chief Justice said he, however, would not be part of the Bench.

"I will have to constitute a Bench on this. I think it will not be proper for me to take up the matter because I was part of the consultations then," Chief Justice Gavai addressed senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who made an oral mentioning for an early hearing of the petition.

"That is for you to decide," Mr. Sibal replied. "We will just take a call and constitute a Bench," Chief Justice Gavai said.

> I will have to constitute a Bench on this... it will not be proper for me to take up the matter because I was part of the consultations then
>
> **B.R. GAVAI**
> Chief Justice of India

Constitutional issues

Mr. Sibal said the petition has raised several constitutional issues with respect to the recommendation made by Chief Justice Khanna (now retired) for the removal of Justice Varma.

The petition argued that the in-house inquiry process was a "parallel, extra-constitutional mechanism" designed for the judiciary to usurp Parliament's exclusive authority.

The Chief Justice's willingness to judicially examine the question of removal of Justice Varma comes a couple of days after a removal motion was initiated when Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha members submitted notices to the presiding officers of their respective Houses.

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EC begins preparations to elect Vice-President

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) said on Wednesday that it has begun preparatory activities for the election to the office of Vice-President and will announce the poll schedule "as soon as possible".

Jagdeep Dhankhar had resigned from the post on Monday, citing health reasons, creating a rare mid-term vacancy in the constitutional position.

The EC is mandated to conduct the election to the post under Article 324 of the Constitution.

The election is governed by the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

"Accordingly, the Election Commission of India has already started the preparations relating to the Vice-Presidential Elections, 2025. On completion of the preparatory activities, the announcement of the Election Schedule to the office of the Vice-President of India will follow as soon as possible," the poll body said in a statement.

The poll-related activities include the preparation of the Electoral College, the finalisation of the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer (s), and preparation and dissemination of background material on all the previous elections to the office of Vice-President.

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Shades of the sea

Tidal waves crashing onto the Valiyathura pier in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday as the sea turned rough. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

GST: Traders relent after CM's promise

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traders in Karnataka have decided to withdraw the State-wide protest planned on Friday after the government decided to not collect three years of arrears of Goods and Services Tax (GST) from small traders and shopkeepers with Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions exceeding an annual turnover of ₹40 lakh.

However, traders have been told to mandatorily register under the GST to ensure prompt payment of taxes in the coming days.

Notices

Traders had planned planned a protest on Friday after they were served notices to pay tax arrears by the State Commercial Tax Department officials.

"I appealed to them to withdraw the protest and they agreed. No action will be taken on notices issued to traders," the Chief Minister, who holds the Finance portfolio, said.

State govt. targeted

The dispute over GST had also sparked off heated political exchanges. The BJP accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government of targeting small enterprises through the sweeping GST crackdowns and vowed to stand with the traders during the protests.

RELATED REPORTS
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India resumes issuing visas to Chinese tourists after 5 years

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India will start issuing tourist visas to Chinese nationals after a gap of five years, the Indian Embassy in Beijing announced on Wednesday. The announcement, called "positive" by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), marks another step in normalising ties between the neighbouring countries that were ruptured by the military stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Galwan clashes in 2020.

According to an official notice posted online and on Chinese social media, the visas can be applied for online beginning from Thursday and obtained after an appointment at the Indian Embassy in Beijing and consulates in Shanghai and Guangzhou.

The Indian Embassy in Beijing. The visas can be applied for online from Thursday, as per an official notice posted online. FILE PHOTO

Meanwhile, amidst the bonhomie, Beijing rejected concerns in New Delhi and Dhaka about China's latest dam project on the Yarlung Sangpo or Brahmaputra River in Tibet and said it had communicated with both the governments.

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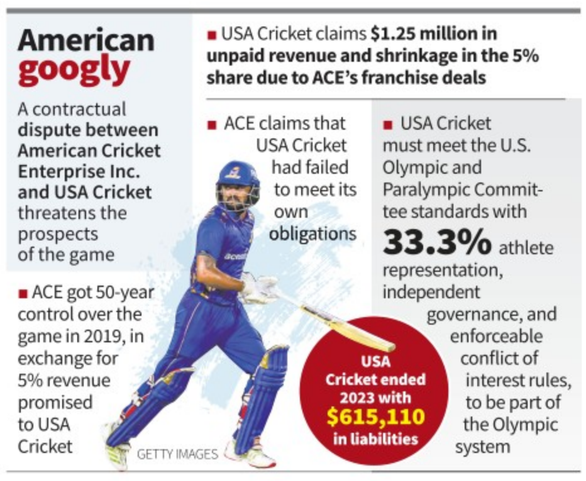
USA Cricket battles for its future amid power struggle with the private consortium ACE

Ayan Acharya
Ayon Sengupta

In 2019, USA Cricket handed over the keys to its future. American Cricket Enterprise Inc. (ACE), a private consortium co-founded by Sameer Mehta, Satyan Gajwani, Vijay Srinivasan, and Vineet Jain, secured exclusive 50-year rights to run elite T20 cricket in the United States of America. According to the Term Sheet signed between both parties, ACE promised to bankroll national teams, build six stadiums, and launch professional leagues that would make cricket America's next major sport.

On the field, that dream seems within reach. In 2024, the USA – an Associate Member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) – co-hosted the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The national team exceeded expectations by defeating Pakistan and advancing to the Super 8s. Recognising this achievement, USA Cricket was honoured with the ICC Associate Member Men's Team Performance of the Year award at the recently held ICC Annual Conference in Singapore.


American googly
A contractual dispute between American Cricket Enterprise Inc. and USA Cricket threatens the prospects of the game
ACE claims that USA Cricket had failed to meet its own obligations
ACE got 50-year control over the game in 2019, in exchange for 5% revenue promised to USA Cricket
USA Cricket claims $1.25 million in unpaid revenue and shrinkage in the 5% share due to ACE's franchise deals
USA Cricket must meet the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee standards with 33.3% athlete representation, independent governance, and enforceable conflict of interest rules, to be part of the Olympic system
USA Cricket ended 2023 with $615,110 in liabilities
GETTY IMAGES

But off the field, the story has been far less harmonious. With the Olympics approaching and cricket newly added to the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics (LA28) slate, that vision is fracturing.

A year ago, the ICC placed USA Cricket "on notice", and following the recent AGM, the global governing body reiterated: "The organisation remains on notice (USAC). USAC is required to undertake comprehensive governance reforms, including but not limited to completing free and fair elections within a three-month period." A contractual dispute between ACE and USA Cricket threatens the board's Olympic certification, its standing with the ICC, and its authority over the very game it is meant to govern.

In a breach notice issued on June 23 this year, USA Cricket stated that ACE had violated major contractual terms: delayed payments, missed infrastructure deadlines, governance interference, and international overreach. ACE, in turn, denied wrongdoing, claiming that USA Cricket had mischaracterised the Term Sheet and had failed to meet its own obligations.

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Stokes — raw, real and relentless

England's talisman has transformed himself since the T20 World Cup final in 2016 to become one of the top all-rounders of the modern game; belief is his staple and having done the hard yards, he has revolutionised Test cricket along with coach McCullum

Tarun Shastry

GETTY IMAGES

The universe sometimes conspires – almost magically – to bless a few individuals with the power not only to write their scripts, but to live them out on the grandest stages of life.

Act I: T20 World Cup final, Eden Gardens, Kolkata, 2016

The tension was palpable. West Indies needed 19 runs off the final over. It was advantage England, as things stood.

Marlon Samuels – calm, ice-cold and unbeaten on 85 – was stranded at the non-striker's end.

The moment was ripe – not for Samuels, not for West Indies – but for a young 24-year-old Englishman full of fire and fight. Ben Stokes had the ball. History was in the making.

But in his, and England's, way stood a player and a performance immortalised by Ian Bishop's iconic scream: "Carrrrrlos Brathwaite! Carrrrrlos Brathwaite – remember the name!"

Four sixes on the trot, each sailing into the night sky and then swallowed by the crowd, stunned Stokes and his teammates into shock. Brathwaite had pulled off the unthinkable and handed the Windies a cherished world title.

Stokes crumbled; his face sank into the palm of his hands. He dropped to the floor, hollowed out by heartbreak. As one name and performance entered the annals of history, another - Stokes - was buried under the weight of an opportunity gone tragically wrong. A man, who could have been a national hero, was made the villain.

"I said to myself, 'I've lost the World Cup.' I couldn't believe it. I didn't know what to do. It took me so long to get back on my feet. I didn't want to get back up. It was like the whole world had come down on me," Stokes, always one to candidly dissect emotions, would later admit.

"There weren't any good things going through my mind. It was just complete devastation. After the first six, I thought, 'Oh God,' but I was backing myself. I had been in that type of situation for four weeks in all my training, so it was not a case of holding anything back and thinking, 'I hope I get this one in' because I knew I could do it."

But destiny is often cruel.

"I haven't watched it back yet because I don't want to bring myself to do that at this stage," he said later. "I don't know how much I missed it, but as a bowler, you have a feeling as soon as you let go whether or not you've got the yorker right – and it felt like I had.

"Some days they go well. Some days they don't. That was a horrible day, but I won't be shying away from it. You almost want it to happen... because if you nail it, everyone forgets the final."

But no one forgot. Not then. Not even now. After the gutting group-stage exit in the 2015 ODI World Cup, the T20 final loss was akin to rubbing salt on one's raw wounds. It was rock bottom, sure, but as it turns out, it was not the end.

Act II: Rock Bottom to Rock Star

"You've got to lose to know how to win..." – Aerosmith famously crooned in their 1973 classic "Dream On".

Stokes held that loss at the Eden close to his heart. The itch of that adamant scar dragged him back to the drawing board. Only this time, it wasn't just blind hard work; he trained smarter. It dawned on him that technique wasn't the only area of work: far more important were temperament and mindset.

Stokes needed to find a way to give direction to the fire that burned within. He needed to find purpose. And where better to find that than at home!

His father, Gerard, was a tough, no-nonsense rugby player-turned-coach. His mother, Deborah, who introduced him to cricket as a young boy, worked as a counsellor for victims of violent crime.

Growing up, young Benjamin excelled at both sports.

"In a room full of people, you'd spot a Stokes straight away," the all-rounder once said.

"The sense of humour is the same. We take the mickey out of each other constantly. My brother's a grouch around people – he just grunts. That competitiveness, the frustration, the inside build-up of anger – that's from my old man. I've definitely got that in me," the Christchurch-born English all-rounder said.

Gerard wasn't one for excuses. For years, he told his son he'd lost a finger to a crocodile. The truth, when it came out, was equally striking: "He kept dislocating the same finger," Stokes recalled. "The doctor said he needed surgery. But Dad couldn't afford to miss games – he had bills to pay. So he just got it cut off."

That missing finger would eventually be his son's iconic celebration. But it was in that kind of environment – relentless, raw, real – that Ben Stokes was shaped.

"If I didn't do well, I'd beat myself up," he remembered. "Especially when I was younger. I'd just get angry. I'm not someone who hates people for beating me. But I. Just. Don't. Like. Losing".

But somewhere along the way, something shifted. From pain came a hard-earned truth: stop chasing moments...become them.

While others shrank in the wake of chaos, Stokes always found himself drawn to it.

Take the 2019 ODI World Cup, for example. Once again, a final - this time at Lord's - and a final over, except this time he was the one batting.

Fifteen runs were needed for a famous win against New Zealand. History stared him down once more, but this time, Stokes didn't blink.

Stokes would drop to his knees once more, but this time after willing his team across the finish line, in a Super Over no less.

He took the weight of a nation and turned it into poetry.

Act III: Immortality in Leeds

If Lord's was redemption, Headingley was a step above. With the Ashes slipping away, England – chasing 359 – collapsed to 286 for nine. With 73 runs still needed and just one wicket in hand against an Australian attack baying for blood, it seemed foolish to hope.

Alone but determined, Stokes motored on. He reverse-swept Nathan Lyon into the stands and switch-hit Pat Cummins for maximums. He smashed boundaries, all with tailender Jack Leach as his shadow.

For all his heroics, Stokes was but human. When he trudged unwillingly to the non-striker's end, he was rendered unable to watch Leach's desperate attempts to survive.

The pair kept the game alive. Stokes was handed the relief of a missed run out and an erroneous not out decision on an LBW appeal (Australia couldn't turn to DRS, having exhausted its reviews). Two runs were needed for a largely unlikely English win when Cummins resumed with the ball.

Leach blocked before running a single and bringing Stokes back on strike. He wasted no time, creaming a length delivery through covers to seal a miraculous win.

Arms spread wide, Stokes - who finished with an unbeaten 135 - roared. Headingley erupted in unison. The famous Western Terrace stands went into a frenzy.

"It was beyond greatness," said former England captain Nasser Hussain. "It was something else. Something beyond cricket."

359 was chased, the Ashes remained alive, and the game got a masterclass on the power of belief.

Final act: Leading from the front

In 2022, when Stokes was handed the reins of the England Test team, the side was adrift. One win in 17 outings didn't inspire any confidence. Spirits were low. The team's brand of cricket was unclear. England had lost its soul.

Early on in his partnership with coach Brendon McCullum, it was evident the duo were cut from the same cloth: bold, unafraid, instinctive.

Together, they didn't just rebuild a team; they redefined it. They exorcised passivity from England's character. No more playing for the draw. No more waiting for the game to come to them. Stokes and McCullum lit a fire and gave it a new name: Bazball.

Its evangelists were keen to underline that this style of cricket was not about reckless bravado, but about freedom. And at the heart of it was a liberated Stokes.

The 2023 series had a not-so-glamorous 2-2 score on paper. But those who watched every ball know that this series housed some of the most riveting contests the red ball game has ever seen. At Lord's, when tensions flared after the controversial stumping of Jonny Bairstow, it was Stokes who walked the tightrope between rage and grace. His counter-attacking 155 nearly pulled off the impossible.

Belief is a Ben Stokes staple. The most recent proof of concept coming from England's recent triumph over India at Lord's in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

With India matching England blow for blow with bat and ball, Stokes effected a game-changing run out of Rishabh Pant in India's first innings – an athletic pinpoint throw after bowling five overs of short-pitched darters under intense heat.

Not only was a threatening partnership broken, but that run out galvanised the crowd to get behind the home boys.

Stokes, the bowler, has been exceptional all through this series, but more so at Lord's. He struck twice in the first innings, however, it was his performance later in the match that defined the contest.

He bowled himself for 24 overs on the trot, at speeds exceeding 137 kmph, removing K.L. Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah, and nightwatchman Akash Deep in a pivotal session on the penultimate day. His sustained 9.2-over burst on the final morning laid the foundation for England's eventual victory.

As a leader, his composure and tactical might took centrestage whenever tempers ran high. Sharp catching positions, attacking bowling changes and faith in their short-ball strategy to dismantle the lower order paid rich dividends.

He managed 44 and 33 in testing conditions and against menacing opponents like Bumrah, anchoring England's lower-order resistance. The home side won by a narrow 22 runs, proving his shifts invaluable in the end.

That triumph gave England 2-1 lead in the series, reaffirming Stokes' own status as the pulse of the red-ball setup.

Bazball is an easy concept to bash because of its volatility. But its champions remain unfazed. What Stokes and McCullum have built is more than a team. It's a culture. They've made Test cricket thrilling again. Not because they win every time, but because they aren't afraid to lose. And that, oddly, is what makes them win more.

Stokes' redemption is more about persistence than perfection. His ascendancy was anything but smooth – in fact, the first chapter of his career had more infamy than glory. The 2016 T20 World Cup final cast a long, painful shadow.

The 2017 nightclub brawl in Bristol led to an arrest, a trial, and a suspension. He lost the England vice-captaincy and missed the 2017-18 Ashes.

It takes something special to resist spiralling and emerge transformed in spirit. Stokes didn't just have to reclaim his place in the team – he had to earn back the trust of a dressing room, and a nation. Turns out, he's done that and in some style. Some players create history. But once in a generation, one becomes it.

Benjamin Andrew Stokes – Remember the Name!

REUTERS

THE GIST

- Stokes held the T20 World Cup final loss at the Eden in 2016 close to his heart
- What Stokes and McCullum have built is more than a team. It's a culture. They've made Test cricket thrilling again. Not because they win every time, but because they aren't afraid to lose
- It takes something special to resist spiralling and emerge transformed in spirit. Stokes didn't just have to reclaim his place in the team — he had to earn back the trust of a dressing room, and a nation

20.1% students pass SSLC annual exam-3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has declared the class 10 (SSLC) annual exam-3 result on Wednesday and the pass percentage was 20.1. The pass percentage of freshers was 21.18.

Girls fared better with 22.65% passing against 20.35% among boys. Rural students performed better than urban students with 21.38%. The pass percentage of urban school students was 20.91. Private school students performed better than government school students with 25.75%, followed by 20.53% in aided schools and 19.33% in government schools.

Among 2,09,374 students who appeared for the examination, as many as 42,085 managed to pass. In the annual exam-2, the pass percentage was 27.67.

Of the 1,455 students appeared to improve their results, 31.27% of them saw improvement.

Overall 74.31%

With 20.1% clearing the annual exam-3, now, the overall pass percentage of SSLC in the academic year 2024-25 is 74.31%. Among 8,68,385 students who appeared for the SSLC exam this year, as many as 6,45,273 managed to pass. In annual exam-1, a total of 5,28,265 students managed to pass, while in annual exam-2, it was 88,229, and 42,085 in annual exam-3.

14,000 government schools in Karnataka lack land records

The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched a campaign to obtain land records within three months

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Currently, the State has approximately 48,182 government schools, including 21,045 primary schools, 22,086 upper primary schools, and 5,051 high schools. FILE PHOTO

Approximately 14,000 government schools in Karnataka lack land records, including khata extracts, regarding land allocation. The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has taken steps to obtain land records within three months by launching "Government School and Educational Institutions Property Protection Campaign" from July to September this year.

The DSEL has recently issued a circular in this regard and has taken steps to protect the properties of government schools, with the assistance of the Revenue Department and district administrations.

"The process of registering the properties of government schools in their district in the name of the respective school should be completed, and a report should be submitted to the government. Also, if any property (land, plot, site, and building) of any government school or government educational institution in the jurisdiction of the DSEL is encroached upon, it should be cleared and handed over to the concerned schools," according to the circular issued by the Commissioner of Public Instruction to all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all districts.

The Commissioner of Public Instruction has directed all the DCs to take necessary steps as per the rules to continuously and permanently protect these properties.

Currently, the State has approximately 48,182 government schools. This includes 21,045 primary schools (classes 1-5), 22,086 upper primary schools (classes 1-8), and 5,051 high schools. Most of these schools have been allotted land by the government, while many donors have donated land and sites to many schools. Of these, the land and sites of about 14,000 government schools have not been registered in the name of the respective schools. Schools without land records run the risk of encroachment, with some disputes reaching the courts.

In addition, it is also difficult to undertake school development works including construction of new buildings, without the necessary documents.

"In order to fulfill the government's desire to provide free and quality education to the present and future generations, the department's first priority is to save and develop government schools by registering and preserving the lands in the name of the respective schools. With this, there is no possibility of disputes and litigation regarding the ownership of lands. In this context, steps have been taken to preserve the lands of all government schools in the state by registering them in the name of the respective schools," reads the circular.

Registration process

The DCs of concerned districts have been instructed to collect the records of the lands of the respective government schools and register them in the name of the school, and if the said lands are encroached upon, have them surveyed by the concerned authority and remove the encroachment.

Further, in order to permanently protect the properties of government schools, the Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) has been instructed to identify the government schools that do not have compound walls and take steps to construct compound walls under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme.

If the properties of any government school are not being used for educational purposes or are unusable, it has been instructed to take necessary steps as per the rules to utilize these properties for educational purposes.

Progress in six months

K.V. Trilok Chandra, Commissioner of Public Instruction, said, "Previously, about 27,000 government schools in the State did not have land records. In the last six months, land records of about 13,000 schools have been made. A campaign has been started to make land records of the remaining schools, and all pending cases will be completed by the end of September 2025. All DCs have been instructed to follow up in this."

Gelatin sticks and detonators found in a carry bag near the washroom of the Kalasipalya bus stand in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gelatin sticks and detonators found outside toilet at Kalasipalya bus stand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A case has been registered under the Explosive Substances Act

Panic gripped the public after security staff of the Kalasipalya bus stand found some explosive material kept in a carry bag abandoned near the washroom on Wednesday afternoon.

The Kalasipalya police, along with bomb disposal squad and FSL teams, rushed to the spot and conducted a thorough check of the area before seizing the material.

The police have registered a case under the Explosive Substances Act.

DCP West division S. Girish, who visited the spot and supervised the investigation, said that six gelatin sticks and some detonators were found. The police are recovering the CCTV camera footage from the area to identify the person who left the bag behind.

A preliminary inquiry revealed that a man who walked with a bag noticed BMTC staff in khaki dress and left the bag on the table for fear of being caught.

Going by the native of the material found, the police suspect that the explosives were being carried for illegal quarry work. The detonators were not connected and kept separate and carried like raw material, Mr. Girish said, ruling out the possibility of any subversive activities.

Lighting up

Getting it ready: A worker repairing a street light in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The repairs are carried out ahead of the Monsoon Session of the State legislature which is set to commence on August 11. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Lokayukta raids eight govt. officials; assets worth ₹37.71 crore unearthed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Lokayukta officials on Wednesday raided multiple locations across the State linked to eight government officials and unearthed assets worth ₹37.71 crore. The searches were conducted at 41 locations, including residences, offices, and residences of the relatives of the accused government officers in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kalaburagi, Koppal, and Kodagu.

The surprise checks were part of the disproportionate assets cases against the government officials, according to the Lokayukta. Among the targeted government officials, Vasanti Amar B.V., IAS, Special Deputy Commissioner, K-Ride, Bengaluru, was found to have the highest wealth. Lokayukta officials targeted five locations linked to Ms. Amar and found her having total wealth estimated at ₹9.02 crore, including immovable assets worth ₹7.40 crore and movable assets worth ₹1.62 crore. She owns three sites, four houses, and three acres of agricultural land.

Searches at 10 places linked to Bagli Maruti, Assistant Director, Department of Urban and Rural Planning, unearthed his assets worth ₹6.34 crore, including ₹4.85 crore worth of immovable properties and ₹1.49 crore worth of movable properties. He owned eight sites, five houses, and 19 acres of agricultural land.

Lokayukta officers in Kodagu targeted four properties linked to Manjunathaswamy M., Joint Director (In-charge), Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Livelihood Department, and unearthed total assets worth ₹5.20 crore, including ₹4.45 crore worth of immovable properties and ₹75.3 lakh worth of movable properties. The other officers who were targeted are Sunil Kumar, Health and Family Welfare Department, Kalaburagi (total assets: ₹4.34 crore); Venkatarama B., Office Assistant (Admin), MCC, Mysuru (₹3.71 cr.); Rajesh M, Assistant Executive Engineer, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), Tumakuru (₹3.67 cr.); H.V. Yarappa Reddy, Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru (₹2.62 cr.); and Shekhu Chavhan, Deputy Director, District Industries Centre, Koppal (₹2.47 cr.).

Guided tour 'Cubbon Walks' to start on July 27, tickets priced at ₹200

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Horticulture Department opened the online portal to book tickets for the guided walking tour of Cubbon Park in Bengaluru, which will be held every weekend starting July 27.

The initiative, called 'Cubbon Walks', is a partnership between the department, the Naturalist School, and Bangalore-WALKS.

The tour will last 90 minutes, and will be held from 7.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The tickets for the tour are priced at ₹200 for adults and ₹50 for children between the ages of 10 - 17 years. Those under the age of 10, when accompanied by adults, can go on the walk for free.

Private entities offering similar tours were charging anywhere between ₹800 and ₹1,500 per person.

Kannda and English

The guided walk covers the variety of flora and fauna in the lung space, with presentation of interesting facts and stories by trained naturalists. There will be separate walks for Kannada and English groups. Each group will consist of a maximum of 30 participants. Those interested in registering for the walk can visit www.cubbonpark.in, or send an email to horticulturecubbon@gmail.com.

The department plans to host such walks in Lalbagh Botanical Garden after the Independence Day flower show.

State tech ecosystem sees funding drop, Bengaluru fares better: Report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka tech ecosystem saw a noticeable funding slowdown in the first half of 2025, witnessing a sharp drop of 44% compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, shows the newly released Karnataka Tech H1 2025 Funding Report by market research firm Tracxn.

"A total of $1.7 billion was raised in Karnataka in H1 2025, marking a significant decrease of 30% compared to $2.4 billion raised in H2 2024, and a drop of 44% compared to $3.0 billion raised in H1 2024. This decline reflects subdued investor activity across several segments when compared to prior periods," noted the report.

Sharp drops

Seed stage saw a total funding of $141 million in H1 2025, a drop of 39% compared to $233 million raised in H2 2024, and a drop of 41% compared to $239 million raised in H1 2024.

Early-stage funding showed healthier trends with total funding of $611 million in H1 2025, going up by 15% from $531 million raised in H2 2024.

Late-stage funding witnessed the steepest fall. The funding amount stood at $930 million in H1 2025, a drop of 44% compared to $1.6 billion raised in H2 2024, and a drop of 56% compared to $2.1 nillion raised in H1 2024.

Top performers

Bengaluru-based tech firms accounted for the majority of the funding raised by tech companies across Karnataka. FinTech, Enterprise Applications, and Retail were the top-performing sectors in H1 2025.

While Fintech and Enterprise Applications recorded an increase of 57% and 3% respectively compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, Retail saw an increase of 27% compared to H2 2024.

The first half of the year witnessed two $100 million+ funds as opposed to five in H1 2024 and four in H2 2024.

Tech companies in Karnataka saw 26 acquisitions in H1 2025, a drop of 4% compared to 27 in H2 2024, and a rise of 24% compared to 21 in H1 2024.

Accel emerged as the most active investor. Despite fewer mega-rounds and only one IPO, the ecosystem still witnessed the creation of two new unicorns and notable acquisitions led by Groww.

24 students in hospital after consuming midday meals in Belagavi

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

As many as 24 students of the Government Higher Primary School at Markandeya Nagar in Belagavi fell sick after consuming midday meals in their school on Wednesday.

While several of them were treated at nearby private hospitals, a few were shifted to the District Hospital after they complained of severe uneasiness.

According to teachers, a few students complained of vomiting sensation and diarrhoea after having the midday meals served in the school.

Preliminary investigation suggested the likelihood of a lizard falling into the food during preparation.

Education Officer of PM Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojna Laxmanrao Yakkundi pointed out that a thorough inquiry would be initiated.

Rowdy sheeter murder case: Byrathi Basavaraj appears for questioning again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Byrathi Basavaraj

> I have been served a notice to appear before the police whenever called. I have assured them of my full cooperation.

Continuing investigations into the rowdy-sheeter Shivaprakash murder case, BJP MLA and one of the accused in the case, Byrathi Basavaraj, was questioned on Wednesday. This was the second time the MLA was appearing for questioning in connection with the case.

Basavaraj appeared before Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Prakash Rathod, the investigating officer in the case, at the Bharthi Nagar police station and was questioned for over two hours.

Speaking to the media, Mr. Basavaraj reiterated that he had nothing to do with the murder. "I was asked several questions and I replied to them. I have been served a notice to appear before the police whenever called. I have assured them of my full cooperation," he said.

Asked about his alleged affiliation, Mr. Basavaraj replied, "I am reiterating that I have no connection with any of the suspects-arrested or absconding in the case. I am a representative of the people, and anyone can take photographs with me. That doesn't mean I am connected with them. The police have summoned me as I was named in the FIR. I have cooperated with them and will cooperate in the future."

Shivaprakash, a realtor and rowdy sheeter, was brutally attacked and killed near his residence in Meanee Avenue Road in Bharathinagar in East Bengaluru on July 15. A total of 11 suspects have been arrested by the police, including the five who initially surrendered claiming responsibility for the crime.

Meanwhile, Seven accused were produced before the court and were later sent to 14-day police custody. One of the accused, identified as Kiran, alleged in court that he sustained fracture injuries on his leg due to police torture in custody. The court directed the police to get the medical treatment for the injuries and submit a report in this regard.

The police have launched a manhunt for the prime accused, Jagadisha, who is on the run.

Vitamin D deficiency linked to neurodevelopmental issues

Vitamin D deficiency represents more than individual concern; it constitutes biological inheritance transmitted across generations, affecting skeletal health and, as Danish research reveals, brains; findings correspond with medical practice in India, where physicians advocate early supplementation

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

Researchers measured vitamin D levels in dried blood spot samples from 88,764 individuals born between 1981 and 2005, part of a universal neonatal screening programme that stores nearly all newborns' blood in the Danish Neonatal Screening Biobank. YURI LI/UNSPLASH

From bones to immune cells, vitamin D is everywhere, guiding growth and shaping defence. But could it also have an effect on the mind?

A major new study suggests so. Published in *The Lancet Psychiatry*, the study drew from the extraordinary depth of Danish health data to establish whether neonatal vitamin D levels might contribute to psychological and neurodevelopmental conditions.

What the study found

Researchers at Aarhus University, in collaboration with the Statens Serum Institut in Copenhagen, used dried blood spot samples from 88,764 individuals born between 1981 and 2005 – part of a universal neonatal screening programme that stores nearly all newborns' blood in the Danish Neonatal Screening Biobank.

From these samples, the team measured levels of 25-hydroxyvitamin D, or 25(OH)D, which is the standard marker of vitamin D status, and vitamin D-binding protein, which carries vitamin D in the blood and prolongs its activity.

Using nationwide Danish health registries, the researchers tracked which individuals developed major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder, or anorexia nervosa – and asked whether their vitamin D levels at birth were linked to these outcomes.

The results were striking. Babies with higher vitamin D levels were less likely to be diagnosed with schizophrenia, ADHD, or autism. Newborns with levels about 12.6 nmol/l higher than average had an 18% lower risk of schizophrenia, an 11% lower risk of ADHD, and a 7% lower risk of autism. Vitamin D-binding protein levels were also linked to schizophrenia risk.

To understand the broader public health impact, the researchers modelled a scenario in which every baby had vitamin D levels in the top 60% of the sample. In that case, they estimated that 15% of schizophrenia cases, 9% of ADHD cases, and 5% of autism cases might have been prevented. These effects appeared early, with children who had higher vitamin D levels showing lower risk from a young age.

The lack of association with depression or bipolar disorder, the authors suggested, may reflect both the later onset of these conditions in life and the possibility that neonatal vitamin D plays a more central role in early neurodevelopmental pathways than in mood disorders.

Testing plausible causality

Observational studies, especially in nutrition, often face two big problems. One is reverse causation, where what looks like a cause is actually an early effect. For example, early brain changes might influence how the body handles vitamin D, making it look like vitamin D is the cause when it's actually an effect. The second is confounding, where a third factor like a mother's diet or immune health influences both vitamin D levels and the child's risk of mental illness.

To check for these biases, the researchers turned to genetics. They started with the polygenic risk score (PRS), which looks at many small inherited differences that alter a person's vitamin D levels and generates a score. They found that individuals with higher PRS scores for vitamin D were less likely to be diagnosed with schizophrenia, ADHD or autism.

PRS also helped rule out reverse causation since a child's later psychiatric diagnosis can't influence the vitamin D genes they were born with.

However, PRS couldn't fully resolve confounding: some variants might still influence other traits beyond vitamin D. Perhaps a gene variant perturbing vitamin D levels also alters neurodevelopment?

As Upasana Bhattacharyya, a scientist at Northwell Health in New York, explained, "While PRS can suggest a biological link, they mainly capture variants that are associated with a trait – not necessarily ones that cause it." She added that PRS typically uses variations that are related to many other functions as well, thereby establishing associations without directionality.

To test for a more direct effect, the researchers turned to Mendelian randomisation, a method that uses genetic variants that have a stronger effect on vitamin D levels. If people who inherit variants that raise (only) vitamin D levels consistently have a lower risk of schizophrenia, ADHD or autism, it will be stronger evidence of a causal relationship between vitamin D levels and the risk of developing these conditions.

The researchers used two levels of Mendelian randomisation. First, they tested whether genetic predictors of vitamin D were associated with lower risk of psychiatric conditions. Then they examined two specific genetic variants in the *GC* gene, which regulates levels of vitamin D-binding protein in the blood. Together, they suggested that higher vitamin D levels may play a protective role, particularly in lowering the risk of ADHD, and possibly schizophrenia and autism.

What the findings don't mean

While the study used powerful genetic tools to test for causality, the authors have cautioned that some important uncertainties remain. Some gene variants might influence both vitamin D and brain development independently, a phenomenon known as pleiotropy. And because vitamin D was measured only at birth, the study couldn't pinpoint which periods in pregnancy were more critical.

Second, if deficiency begins in the womb, it makes sense for intervention to begin there, too. However, a 2024 randomised controlled trial in Denmark found that high-dose vitamin D supplementation (2800 IU/day) starting at pregnancy week 24 had no significant effect on the risk of autism or ADHD in children.

But such results also depend on timing, dosage, and whether mothers were actually deficient to begin with. In short, while vitamin D may not be the sole or dominant factor shaping neurodevelopment, it remains a plausible piece of a larger, complex puzzle.

Another key limitation was that nearly all participants were of European ancestry. In a smaller non-European group, the results were less consistent – possibly due to lower vitamin D levels, smaller sample size, and/or genetic diversity.

For these reasons, the researchers concluded that while their findings support a causal link, they can't yet prove it outright.

> This is not about alarm but about recognising that brain development is shaped by access to nutrients — and vitamin D is one such modifiable element we can and must intervene on
>
> **ANURADHA KAPUR**
> DIRECTOR OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY AT MAX SMART SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL

India's vitamin D problem

Sunlight is abundant in India, but vitamin-D deficiency is rampant, and the findings carry especial weight here. A study conducted at AIIMS Rishikesh between 2017 and 2018 found that 74% of infants and 85.5% of their mothers were deficient in vitamin D, with nearly half experiencing severe deficiency. Another study from Bengaluru observed that 92.1% of newborns were deficient.

During pregnancy, the mother's body undergoes a complex set of hormonal and metabolic changes to supply calcium for the developing foetal skeleton. These changes intensify in the third trimester as the skeleton grows rapidly. To meet this need, the mother's intestines absorb more calcium, her kidneys excrete more, and her levels of active vitamin D rise to roughly twice their pre-pregnancy levels.

Despite these adaptations, maternal vitamin D levels don't rise unless sunlight exposure or dietary intake improves. This is why even well-nourished pregnancies in India can result in deficiency. Sunlight alone isn't always enough.

Evidence from Indian hospitals has also shown that a mother's vitamin D status directly shapes her baby's. A 2024 study conducted in the Bundelkhand region of India found a strong positive correlation between mothers' and their infants' vitamin D levels and interpreted it to mean babies born to vitamin D-deficient mothers were very likely to be deficient themselves.

This reinforces the idea that vitamin D insufficiency is not just an individual issue: it is a biological legacy passed from one generation to the next, shaping not just bones but, as the Danish study suggests, brains too.

These findings align with clinical experience in India. According to Anuradha Kapur, principal director of obstetrics and gynaecology at a Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital in New Delhi, timely supplementation in deficient mothers can remarkably improve both maternal and neonatal levels.

In her practice, she said high-dose therapy – typically of 60,000 IU per week in the third trimester – has been effective and safe, with clear benefits in infant growth and immunity. A small Indian trial last year echoed these findings: babies born to supplemented mothers had significantly better vitamin D levels at birth. By six months, none had developed severe deficiency, compared to more than half in the control group.

Caution rather than alarm

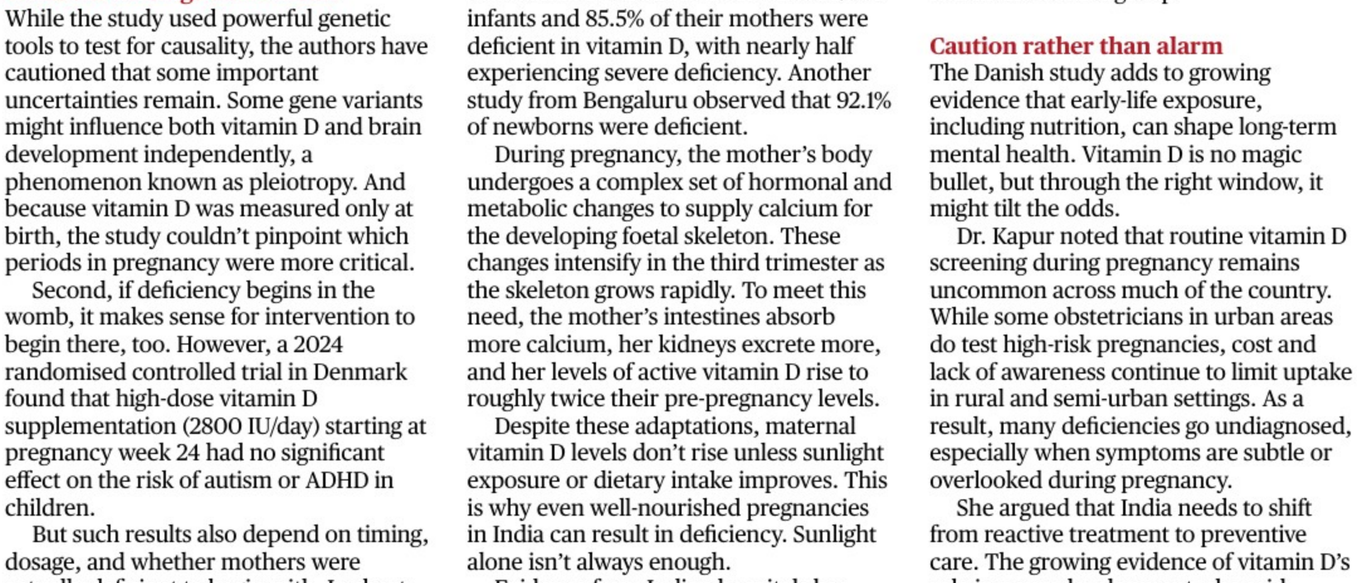
The Danish study adds to growing evidence that early-life exposure, including nutrition, can shape long-term mental health. Vitamin D is no magic bullet, but through the right window, it might tilt the odds.

Dr. Kapur noted that routine vitamin D screening during pregnancy remains uncommon across much of the country. While some obstetricians in urban areas do test high-risk pregnancies, cost and lack of awareness continue to limit uptake in rural and semi-urban settings. As a result, many deficiencies go undiagnosed, especially when symptoms are subtle or overlooked during pregnancy.

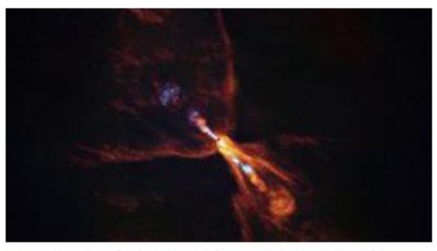
She argued that India needs to shift from reactive treatment to preventive care. The growing evidence of vitamin D's role in neurodevelopment, she said, strengthens the case for routine antenatal supplementation, ideally beginning as early as the first or second trimester.

"This is not about alarm," Dr. Kapur said, "but about recognising that early brain development is shaped by access to nutrients – and vitamin D is one such modifiable element we can and must intervene on."

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and a science communicator from Delhi. anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)



A schematic representation of Mendelian randomisation and its core assumptions. Z are the genetic variants, X is the exposure, Y is the outcome of interest, and U are possible confounding factors. KAITLIN HAZEL WADE (CC BY-SA)



HOPS-315, a baby star where astronomers have observed evidence for the earliest stages of planet formation, as imaged by ALMA. ALMA(ESO/NAOJ/NRAO)/M. MCCLURE ET AL.

Telescopes spot start of planet formation in Orion

The Hindu Bureau

When rocky worlds like the earth began to form, dust in the young Solar System was first heated until it vaporised and then cooled so that the very first, refractory (i.e., heat-loving) minerals could crystallise. Catching that moment in another star system would show astronomers exactly how planet formation begins – but no one had seen it before. A new study in *Nature* this month has reported just such an event.

By examining the star HOPS-315 in Orion, whose protoplanetary disc is tilted just enough for someone on or near the earth to peer deeper within, researchers from France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Taiwan, and the U.S. observed raw rock vapour cool and crystallise.

The protoplanetary disc is a flat, rotating pancake-shaped mass of gas and dust that surrounds a newborn star. Inside it, dust grains bump together, stick, and gradually grow into rocks, planets, moons, and other bodies while the gas creates atmospheres and influences the planets' long-term orbits.

The observations themselves were conducted by the NASA James Webb Space Telescope and the Atacama Large Millimeter/sub-millimeter Array (ALMA) observatory in Chile. In 2023, the team used the NIRSpec and MIRI integral-field spectrographs onboard the telescope to collect sharp energy readings across a range of frequencies. Eight months later, ALMA observed the same system for signs of carbon monoxide, silicon monoxide and sulphur monoxide.

Together, the telescope traced warm gas and dust only a few stellar radii from the star while ALMA mapped cooler gas farther out.

> **The relative quantities of crystals were reminiscent of inclusions that have been found in primitive meteorites on the earth, meaning that a similar condensation is under way around the star**

The telescope's data contained evidence of a strong band of silicon monoxide gas at around 470 K as well as crystalline silicates. Both lay within 2.2 AU of the star – well inside Mercury's orbit if this were in the solar system. (1 AU equals the earth-sun distance.)

The team also ran computer simulations, which predicted that around 1 AU from the star, temperatures hovered around 1,300K, which is the temperature at which dust just begins to evaporate. The study's energy readings matched the prediction: that interstellar grains must have vaporised there, releasing silicon monoxide gas that then cooled and re-condensed into fresh shards of crystals.

According to the study, the relative quantities of crystals of forsterite, enstatite, and tentative silica were reminiscent of inclusions – i.e. minerals trapped inside minerals – that have been found in primitive meteorites on the earth, meaning that a similar condensation chemistry is under way around the star.

The ALMA data also revealed no slow silicon monoxide at the star's position whereas the Webb telescope's data was blueshifted by around 10 km/s. Together, they indicate that the minerals lay inside the rising disc atmosphere, the thin upper layer of gas and dust above the mid-plane of the protoplanetary disc, rather than in the material pouring out of the star.

Thus the study has reported the first evidence of solid matter condensing out of rock vapour around a star, a.k.a. the first step of planet formation.

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of modern bus queue shelters to be added in Delhi

2,856 The Delhi government will construct thousands of modern bus queue shelters across the capital, drawing design models from global cities like London, Singapore, and Moscow to offer commuters a smarter and more uniform travel experience. PTI

School vehicles found violating safety norms in Uttar Pradesh

4,080 The Uttar Pradesh government conducted a statewide crackdown against unsafe school vehicles from July 1 to 15, during which more than 4,000 vehicles were found violating safety norms, an official statement said. PTI

Online betting sites blocked between 2022 and June 2025

1,524 The Union government issued orders to block websites and mobile apps related to online betting, gambling, and money gaming. It cited concerns around unregistered and offshore platforms violating the Information Technology Act, 2000. PTI

Missing persons untraced in Delhi from January to July

7,880 Nearly 8,000 people reported missing in Delhi between January 1 and July 23 this year remain untraced, with the highest number of such cases recorded in the Outer North district, as per data from the Zonal Integrated Police Network. PTI

SHGs formed to empower de-notified, nomadic communities

3,438 The Union government said it has formed more than 3,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with 46,067 members exclusively from de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities (DNTs). PTI

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Can Presidential Reference change a judgment?

What is the issue on which President Droupadi Murmu has invoked the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction? Are such advisory opinions binding? What did the April 8 ruling state? Can a Presidential Reference prompt the Supreme Court to revisit an earlier ruling?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

On July 22, the Supreme Court issued notices to the Union Government and all States on a Presidential Reference seeking its opinion on whether the President and Governors can be judicially compelled to act within prescribed timelines on Bills passed by State legislatures. A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha, and A.S. Chandurkar indicated that detailed hearings would begin around mid-August.

What was the Presidential Reference?

The Reference stems from President Droupadi Murmu's submission of 14 questions following the Supreme Court's April 8 ruling. That decision arose from a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government challenging Governor R.N. Ravi's delay in granting assent to 10 Bills that had been re-passed by the State legislature, and his subsequent decision to reserve them for Presidential consideration. The judges held that the Governor's prolonged inaction was illegal and, for the first time, imposed judicially enforceable timelines on Governors and the President to act on State Bills. The Presidential Reference broadly seeks clarity on whether courts can prescribe the manner and timeframe within which constitutional authorities must act.

Can the court advise?

Article 143(1) of the Constitution confers advisory jurisdiction on the Supreme Court, empowering it to render opinions on questions of law or fact that are not connected to any ongoing litigation. The only prerequisites are that the President must be satisfied that such a question has arisen or is likely to arise, and that it is of such a nature and of such public importance that it warrants the court's opinion.

Judicial opinion: President Droupadi Murmu administers the oath of office to Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as Chief Justice of India, in New Delhi on May 14. ANI

However, the court is bound to limit itself strictly to the questions referred by the President and cannot exceed the scope of the Reference.

Can it decline a Reference?

Although the Supreme Court has chosen to entertain the present Reference, it is not bound to do so in every case. In *In Re: The Special Courts Bill* (1978), the court held that the word "may" in Article 143(1) grants it discretion to decline a Reference. However, it must record reasons for such refusal.

In 1993, the court declined to answer a Reference on the Ayodhya-Babri Masjid dispute, citing the pendency of a civil suit and deeming the Reference "unconstitutional" for violating secularism. The judges also cautioned against the misuse of the court's advisory opinion for political ends.

Are advisory opinions binding?

The binding force of advisory opinions remains contested. Article 141 of the Constitution states that the "law declared" by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts in India. In *St. Xavier's College versus State of Gujarat* (1974), the court clarified that advisory opinions do not amount to binding precedents, though they command significant persuasive authority. Nevertheless, there have been instances where the court has appeared to treat such opinions as authoritative. A notable example is the *R.K. Garg versus Union of India* (1981) case, where Justice P.N. Bhagwati treated the legal reasoning in the *Special Courts Bill* Reference as a binding precedent. This was despite Justice Y.V. Chandrachud's explicit caveat in that Reference that the court's opinion were not binding on other courts. As it stands, any advisory opinion issued in the present presidential Reference would not have binding force. The Supreme Court's April 8 judgment, delivered in the exercise of its adjudicatory jurisdiction under Article 141, would continue to prevail irrespective of the opinion.

Can the court overturn its April 8 ruling through the Reference?

In its opinion on the *Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal* Reference, the Supreme Court underscored that Article 143 cannot be used as a means for the executive to seek a review or reversal of its settled judicial decisions. "When this court in its adjudicatory jurisdiction pronounces its authoritative opinion on a question of law, it cannot be said that there is any doubt about the question of law or the same is *res integra* so as to require the President to know what the true position of law on the question is," the opinion said. Accordingly, the only valid recourse to challenge the April 8 ruling is through review or curative petitions.

However, in *re Natural Resources Allocation* (2012), the court held that there is no constitutional bar on its ability to clarify, restate, or even formulate a fresh opinion on a question of law under Article 143(1), so long as the *ratio decidendi* of an earlier judgment remains intact and the rights of parties in the original case are unaffected. The Reference followed the court's decision quashing the 2G spectrum allocation and mandating auctions as the sole method for spectrum distribution.

However, in 1998, a Presidential Reference was used to modify certain aspects of a previous ruling on judicial appointments. While reaffirming the validity of the collegium system laid down in *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association versus Union of India* (1993), the court revised the composition and functioning of the collegium, thereby refining the appointment process without overturning the earlier judgment.

While the April 8 judgment is final, its findings on the law may still be refined or elaborated upon by the Constitution Bench hearing the present Reference.

THE GIST

- Article 143(1) of the Constitution confers advisory jurisdiction on the Supreme Court, empowering it to render opinions on questions of law or fact that are not connected to any ongoing litigation.
- In its opinion on the *Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal* Reference, the Supreme Court underscored that Article 143 cannot be used as a means for the executive to seek a review or reversal of its settled judicial decisions.
- The binding force of advisory opinions rendered by the Supreme Court remains contested.

Is the plastic industry trying to influence green policies?

How has India tried to integrate informal waste pickers into formal waste systems?

Sweta Gupta

The story so far:

At first glance, tobacco and plastic might seem unrelated. However, environmental activists and health experts are now drawing attention to how the plastic industry, backed by fossil fuel giants, mirrors the tobacco industry's playbook.

How does plastic mirror tobacco?

Both industries have used profit-driven tactics despite evidence of harm.

Shifting responsibility: in many jurisdictions, advertisements for tobacco run with a disclaimer "smoking is injurious to health" while promoting the product, abetted by weak public policy. This places the onus on individual choice. Similarly, plastic-makers have blamed consumers for not recycling while diverting attention from corporate accountability. In both cases, the effect is for systematic harm to be recast as personal failure.

Funding misleading PR and science: Tobacco companies have historically funded studies denying their effects on the body. Similarly, as *NPR* and *PBS* have reported, the plastic industry promoted recycling as a resolution from the 1980s despite privately acknowledging its economic and technical impracticality at scale. Yet even as trade groups launched public campaigns around the 'recyclability' of plastic, most plastic waste continued to be incinerated, landfilled or dumped in the open.

Greenwashing: Tobacco companies once used to market 'light' and 'mild' cigarettes as safer. Today, the absence of clear, enforceable standards and shortcomings in the country's waste-processing infrastructure render plastic that is, or has been labelled, 'biodegradable' or 'compostable' to not be that way at all. This can give consumers a false impression of plastics' real-world environmental impact.

Do they target the Global South?

As regulations to reduce the use of single-use plastics and rationalise the material's use in packaging tighten across the Global North, plastic producers have been focusing on low- and middle-income countries to sustain growth. According to the OECD's 'Global Plastic Outlook' report in 2022, plastic consumption is projected to more than double in Sub-Saharan Africa and triple in Asia by 2060 but grow by only 15% in Europe in the same period. This shift in focus towards the Global South has coincided with weaker environmental regulations, and inadequate waste management systems, making these regions especially vulnerable to rising plastic pollution.

More recently, the plastics and fossil fuel industries have sought to influence negotiations for a global plastics treaty under the UN. According to the Centre for International Environmental Law, industry influence was evident at the third round of treaty talks (INC-3), where there were 36% more lobbyists from the fossil fuel and chemicals sectors than in the previous round.

Where does India stand on plastics?

In India, the waste management system banks on lakhs of people, from ragpickers and sorters to grassroot recyclers, in the informal sector responsible for collecting and processing 70% of the plastic that is recycled. But this work often comes at the cost of their health and dignity, exposing them to hazardous materials and toxic fumes, without protective gear, legal recognition or social security. They face long-term health risks, and often live below the poverty line. The National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem scheme launched in 2024 aims to integrate waste pickers into formal waste systems by providing safety measures, health insurance under Ayushman Bharat, and access to social security benefits. As per the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as of May 2025, over 80,000 sanitation and waste-picking workers have been profiled under the scheme.

Furthermore, under the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, (amended in 2022), manufacturers must take responsibility for plastic they generate.

THE GIST

- The plastic industry promoted recycling as a resolution from the 1980s despite privately acknowledging its economic and technical impracticality at scale.
- As regulations to reduce the use of single-use plastics and rationalise the material's use in packaging tighten across the Global North, plastic producers have been focusing on low- and middle-income countries to sustain growth.
- In India, the waste management system banks on ragpickers and sorters in the informal sector to collect and process 70% of the plastic that is recycled.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JUNI Moktan, W/o Firoj, R/a No.7, 5th Cross, A.K.Colony, Bengaluru-560071 have changed my name to Nirfa Khan vide affidavit dt: 22.07.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, B'lore

I, Angela Rukmani Kurapati D/O, Arnold Thomas Milner R/o # 15, Poojita Nivas, 5th Cross Nandishwar Layout, 9th Main, Garve Bhavi Palya Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Angela Kurapati.

I, BHADRESH R RAMI S/o Rameshchandra Shankerlal Rami R/o N120 Tower N5 Godrej E–City Doddathoguru Electronic City Phase 1 Bengaluru Karnataka–560100 changed my minor Son's name from Sanjay Bhadresh alias SANJAY BHADRESH RAMI to SANJAY BHADRESH RAMI aged 16 Years.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SURESH KUMAR PEDDINA**, S/o. Late Pedina Ananta Rao, Resident of ward No.-5, At-Dera Sahi, Gudari, P.O. / P.S.-Gudari, Dist.- Rayagada, Odisha, PIN-765026 declare by this affidavit No- 480, dated-21-05-2025, that now onwards I shall be known as **SURESH KUMAR PEDINA** for all future purposes.

REAL ESTATE

Looking to Buy 1-2Acr Factory/ shed land. Broker/ Owners Ct: 9900155588

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby intimated that my clients have negotiated to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule hereunder from its owner in title Sri. **L.G. DWARAKANATH** S/o **L. Govindarao** any person/s, body corporate, financial entity, Banks and any person's having any kind of objection or claim/right/title of what so ever over the schedule property herein are hereby called upon to lodge their claim, objection/s if any, with supporting documents thereon with the undersigned within seven days (7) from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the schedule property is free from all sorts of encumbrances and claims and shall complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that pieces and parcel of immovable residential property being a residential unit built on BDA plot bearing number 269, situated 11th B Cross Road, J P Nagar 2nd Phase, Sarakki, Bangalore, measuring **East-West: 13.72 Meter, North-South: 18.59 Meter, totalling 254.85 Square Meter**, East by:- Site No.270, West by:- Site No.268, North by: Site No.292, South by:-Road. Along with residential building on ground floor.

PANGAEA ADVISORY
No.64, 3rd Floor, Dr Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 10.
Ph: - 8660861245

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Center, Governerpet, Vijayawada - 520002 (A.P.)

NIT No.64/MAU61-PLG0AUD/7/2025-IFR, Dated:23.07.2025

E Procurement Short Tender Notice

Name of Work:"RFP for selection of consultant for Comprehensive architectural services (Site planning, Architecture, Interiors, Landscape, Structures, MEP, Safety, Primary survey and investigations, etc) for the Honourable Governor residence and camp office at Amaravati".

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **24.07.2025** to **01.08.2025** upto **14.00Hrs**.Due date for submission of Bid is **01.08.2025** up to **15.00 Hrs**, Technical bid opening **01.08.2025 @16.00Hrs**.For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, ARSIKERE.

PH.NO:08174-232201
FAX NO :08174-233274 email add:
itstaff_ulb_arasikere@yahoo.com website add :
www.arasikerecity..mrc.gov.in

NO:ASK/SWM/15th finance/Works/02/2025-26
Date:22-07-2025

-: Tender Notification :- (Through The Government Of Karnatka Public Procurement Potal)

Under the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2025-26 financial Years 15th finance, tender's has been invited through the Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka under the Karnataka Standard Tender Document – KG-2 and KW-3 as per the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Directions 1999-2000 Act 2000. Eligible tenderers can participate in the tender through the portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Sl.no.Details 1.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT45869 Amount Put to Tender (Rs in Lakhs)75.00 2.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT45884 Amount Put to Tender (Rs in Lakhs)51.20 3.DMA/2025-26/IND4998 Amount Put to Tender (Rs in Lakhs)30.00 Further details can be obtained from the website www.kppp.karntaka.gov.in and from the office of Municipal commissioner, City Municipal Council, Arsikere or Assistant Executive Engineer, City Municipal Council.

sd/-President, City Municipal Council, Arsikere

sd/- Municipal Commisioner, City Municipal Council, Arsikere

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸಸ/ಡಾಸಸ/371/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ZILLA PANCHAYATH, CHITRADURGA

OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ADMIN) DEPT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, CHITRADURGA.

ಇ–ಮೇಲ್–ddpi.edu.karcht@nic.in ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08194–220031

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಇ4/ಸ.ಶಾ.ವಾ.ಖಿ.ಬಗ್ಗೆ/ಸ.ಆರ್–35/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.07.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(VIA E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

As per the DMF Rules 2016 and the guidelines under the Pradhan Mantri Khanija Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) under the District Mineral Foundation Trust for the year 2024-25, as approved in the proceedings of the Governing Council meeting of the District Mineral Foundation Trust dated 03.10.2023 and as per the administrative approval of the Honorable District Collector and the Management Committee, District Mineral Foundation Trust, Chitradurga dated 24.06.2024, a short-term tender has been invited from eligible institutions/agencies under the e-procurement portal for the supply of school buses to government schools to Holalkere assembly constituency for the year 2025-26. The application form can be downloaded from the Karnataka Government's e-procurement website athttps://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Particulars:- **(1)** TENDER NUMBER DPI/2025-26/IND0565
(2) Address to which the school buses are to be supplied:-
* Government High School, Upparigenahalli, HolalkereTaluk **NO:-2**
* Government High School, Bharamsagar Village, Chitradurga Taluk, Holalkere Assembly Constituency **NO:-1** Total number of buses to be supplied **NO:-3** **(3)** Estimated amount fixed for implementation of the programme Total Total .76.80 in lakhs **(4)** Period for supply of buses Within 40 days from the date of issue of work order **(5)** E.M.D amount Rs.1,53,600/- **(6)** Date of submission of e-tender application: Date:19.07.2025. **(7)** Last date for submission of e-tender application Date:29.07.2025.
(8) Technical bid opening date Date:31.07.2025.
(9) Financial bid opening date Date:01.08.2025.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/237/2025-26 **Sd/- Deputy Director (Admin) Department of School Education Chitradurga**

Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board, Pune (MSAMB)

e-Tender Notice (Second Call)

MSAMB invites e-Tender for Construction of Godown having its storage capacity 1000 MT at Agricultural Produce Market Committee Buldhana, District Buldhana (Maharashtra State). Estimated cost of said work is Rs.132.49 Lakhs (GST Extra). For details please visit www.msamb.com and https://mahatenders.gov.in.

Managing Director

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್ಟಿ–12/ಎಇ–3/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 23.07.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ–12/ಎಇ–3/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:. 23.07.2025.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ **ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ :5054–03–101–0–2–132 (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳು ಅಡಿ ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ–ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ರಾಹೆ–25 ರಿಂದ ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಳ್ಳಿ–ಕೋಣನತಲೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ (ವಯಾ ಹೊನ್ನೂರು, ಒಡ್ಡವಟ್ಟಿ ತಾಂಡ) ರಸ್ತೆಯ 5.80 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (18993) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.08.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 02.08.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಎಜಿ/210/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26 ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

ADI DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Tenders are invited from experienced and eligible caterers to cook and serve meals three times a day for students residing in 30 Social Justice Hostels located in Madurai District. The complete details are published on the website **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.**

Contact phone number. 7338801263

District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare officer -Madurai

DIPR/3775/TENDER/2025

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road,
Bengaluru - 560002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342
E-mail: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in

No: BMCRI/SUP(2)/09/2024-25 Dated: 23-07-2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 for **Providing Internet Lease Line and Broadband Connectivity which are required for BMCRI and Attached Hospitals, Students Hostels and Library.**

The tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 24-07-2025** and Last Date for Submission of Tenders through e-Procurement website is **08-08-2025 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with EMD will be rejected.

For further details contact **Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.**

Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1995/Adverto/2025-26

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telephone : 080-22024000
e-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com, cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in

No. KRDCL/BRIDGE/IFB /2025-26/09 Date: 23.07.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION ON TURNKEY BASIS

(through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites bids for **Construction of High-level Minor Bridge across Krishna River Tributory near Shilahalli Village in Lingasugur Taluk, Raichur District** on Turnkey Basis based on Tenderer's own Design on two cover system. Approx. cost of work : **Rs. 9.58 Crore.** EMD Amount : **Rs.9.58 Lakh** (Rs.1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal & Rs.8.58 lakh in the form of Bank Guarantee). **Period of Completion (including monsoon):** 24 months.

Interested applicants can view and download the complete proposal documents from GoK KPP portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in (a)** Last date for submission of bids through KPP portal: **06.08.2025 upto 17:30 Hrs. (b)** Date and time of opening of Technical bids is : **08.08.2025 at 11:30 Hrs.**

*Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes if any, will be updated only on KPP Portal / KRDCL website : **https://www.krdcl.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer KRDCL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/1991/2025-26

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Office of the Superintending Engineer, B-SMILE, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No. B-SMILE/SE/TEND/04/2025-26 Date: 23.07.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPP Portal only)

The Superintending Engineer, B-SMILE, Bengaluru invites bids from experienced & reputed Design, Print and Production House/ Media House for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Promotional Film with Computer Graphics using Cine Camera including pre-production research, post production, voice recording to showcase futuristic and proposed Mega and Long term Infrastructure Projects of Bengaluru City.
	Amount put to tender: **Rs. 83.21 lakhs (Excluding GST).** EMD: **Rs. 1.67 lakhs.** Period of Completion : **2 months.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** RFP documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 24.07.2025, 5.30 pm. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **31.07.2025 at 4.00 pm at the Office of the Director (Technical), 1st Floor, Annex-2 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02. (3)** Last date for receipt of tender documents: **08.08.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bids: **11.08.2025 at 11.00 am. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bids: **will be intimated to technically qualified bidders.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, B-SMILE

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – PERCENTAGE TENDER SYSTEM (PPP Mode) (E-Submission)

IFB No.	20/ F. Energy Efficiency /Pack 2/SDO I/ CW /2025/Dt.23.07.2025
Fund	Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode through ESCO financing with Shared Savings model.
Eligibility	Refer Request For Proposal (RFP)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai – 625 007
Downloading Period	**25.07.2025** to **29.08.2025** upto **15.00** hours through E-Tendering website **"https://tntenders.gov.in"**
EMD Payable	Online Mode or eBG through E-Tendering website **"https://tntenders.gov.in"**
Pre Bid meeting	**14.08.2025** at **11.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**29.08.2025** before **15.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **"https://tntenders.gov.in"**
Bid opening	**01.09.2025** at **15.30** hours at the office of Tender Invitee through E-Tender Portal

Name of work	Bid Security
Implementation of Energy Saving Measures by Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 91 Energy Efficient Pumpsets, Capacitor Banks, Harmonics Filter, Transformer and Operation & Maintenance of 42 Pumping Stations across 10 Water Supply Schemes in Madurai and Thanjavur regions (Package 2) on Shared Savings Model under PPP mode (Implementation Period: 8 months and Operation & Maintenance Period-10 Years)	Rs. 27.00 lakh

DIPR/ 3803 /TENDER/2025 **Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Madurai**

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Office of the Chief Engineer (Operations), IT Cell, Corporate Office, GESCOM,
CIN:U4010KA2002SGC030436
Web Site : www.gescom.karnatakagov.in E-mail: eeitgescom@gmail.com

No: GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(COMM/IT)/EEE(IT)/AEE(IT)/AE(IT)-08/2025-26/29655-70 Date: 23-7-2025

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Portal Mode only) ::

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Ltd., Gulbarga invites tender on total turnkey basis from eligible bidders through KPPP portal for **Implementation of "Application Access Control System using Zero Trust Framework in GESCOM".**

1) Tender Enquiry No. : **GESCOM/CEE/SEE/EE/2025-26/IT33,** 2) Name of Company : **GESCOM**

The bid documents will be available in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after 25-07-2025. The prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/316/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Operations, Corporate Office GESCOM, Kalaburgi**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & Willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Name of Work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put ro tender in Rs.	Last date for submission of bid
Construction of "Prajasoudha" Kartagi Taluk Adalitha Kendra at Kartagi Taluk, Koppal district.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 629 & IFT No. 78/2025-26 Date:23.07.2025	6, 52 ,76,177/-	06.08.2025 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Telephone No. 080-22273511/ 080-22100077, web site: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/CP/1986/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Bids are invited from reputed firms/agencies/companies in Single Stage two part bidding system:

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-13/2025-26	Providing following service of manpower on contract(outsourced) basis: I) House-keeping & Sanitation Services at Transit House of OPTCL Hqrs. Office, BBSR, Guest House Puri, Rourkela & Berhampur. II) Catering Services at Transit House of OPTCL Hqrs. Office, BBSR & Guest House Puri.	Rs.1,06,36,420.00
WZB-01/ SANITATION/ 2025-26	Annual contract for cleaning, up-keeping and sanitation of office of SGM(EL),Western (O&M) Zone, Burla and all office units & GSS under administrative control of Western (O&M) Zone, Burla for the FY 2025-2026 & FY 2026-27.	Rs.1,18,48,898.00

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.optcl.co.in.**

CAD-1227 OIPR-04011/11/0195/2526 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha **HIPR-25/2025-26**

ରାଜ୍ୟ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା
STATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY(SUDA)
Govt. of Odisha (H & U.D.Deptt.)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No.- 009/SUDA **Dtd. 23.07.2025/Bhubaneswar**

Sealed proposals are invited by the State Urban Development Agency (SUDA), Housing and Urban Development Department from amongst consultancy firms/ agencies empaneled by NICSI under empanelment reference "10(08)/2023 – Category-D (Tier-I) Strategy Consulting: Empanelment of Strategy Consulting Organizations for the Digital India Programme" **for "Selection of Execution Partner for Odisha Urban Development Task Force in Housing & Urban Development Department"**

The last date for receipt of the Bid is **14.08.2025 up to 11.00 A.M**

Details can be seen and downloaded from the bidding documents which will be available in website **www.tenderodisha.gov.in** with effect from **25TH, July, 2025.**

Completed Proposal for the work in prescribed format shall be available for uploading through e-procurement portal ie:- **tenderodisha.gov.in**. till **14.08.2025 up to 11.00 AM.**

The Proposal received shall be opened through e-procurement portal ie:- **tenderodisha.gov.in**. on **14.08.2025 itself at 4.00 P.M.** Bidders can download the BID document from e-Tender portal.

Sd/- Administrative Officer, SUDA

CAD-1225: OIPR-13036/11/0013/2526

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
सिंचाई प्रमंडल, वीरपुर (सुपौल)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0 –01SBD/2025-26 का शुद्धि पत्र

पत्रांक :–796 / वीरपुर

शुद्धि पत्र

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय का पत्रांक–739 दिनांक–02.07.2025 द्वारा आमंत्रित निवदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0 –01SBD/2025-26 जिसका सूचना एवं जन संपर्क विभाग का PR No.-007679(WRD) 2025-26 है जो दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित हुआ है जो अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है :–

क्रमांक	विवरण	पूर्वमें निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय	अभियुक्ति
1	प्री–बिड मीटिंग का समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक–25.07.2025 को 3.00 बजे अपराहन मुख्य अभियंता, सिंचाई सृजन, जल संसाधन विभाग, सहरसा के कार्यालय कक्ष में।	दिनांक–25.07.2025 को 3.00 बजे अपराहन अभियंता प्रमुख, सिंचाई सृजन, जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में।	

उक्त सूचना **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR. No. 009232 (WRD) 25-26

कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल, वीरपुर (सुपौल)

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD
MADURAI CIRCLE

(Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Ellisnagar, Madurai-625 016) E-mail: semctnhb@yahoo.in

e-Re tender Notice No :MC/03/2025-2026 Date : 22.07.2025

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of works Rs. in Lakhs (Incl. GST @ 18%)	EMD in Rs.
1	Construction of 72 Tenements (Block A- 36 Nos & Block B- 36 Nos) (G + 2) at Old Fish Market Colony in T.S.No.640 of Kumbakonam Town, Block No:6, Ward No.5, Thanjavur District.	1045.73	5,33,000/-
2	Construction of 192 Tenements (Block A- 96 Nos & Block B- 96 Nos) (G+5 Floors) at J.J.Nagar/ Perumandi Colony, T.S.No. 2082 of Kumbakonam Town, Block No.44, Ward No-VII, Thanjavur District.	2820.05	14,21,000/-

1. For Tender document visit **https://tntenders.gov.in** Date and Time for downloading and submission of tender documents : **From 29.07.2025 at 3.00 P.M. to 01.09.2025 upto 11.00 A.M.**
2. Date and Time of opening of the e-Tender : **01.09.2025 at 11.30 A.M.**
3. Detailed Tender Notice is available in the website : **https://tntenders.gov.in.**

DIPR/ 3758 /TENDER/2025 **Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle/TNHB.**

Government of Tamil Nadu
Information and Public Relations Department
Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R. Film and Television Institute
(Affiliated to Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University)
C.I.T. Campus, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.

For the academic year **2025–2026,** the regular admission process for Bachelor of Visual Arts Degree Course has been completed. In this connection, a few vacant seats in the sections listed below are now to be filled under the **reservation quota.**

Sl.NO	Course	Details of Vacant Seats
1)	Cinematography	2 (SC/ST - 1, MBC/DNC – 1)
2)	Digital Intermediate	10 (7.5% Govt. School - 1, MBC/DNC-2, BC-3, OC-2, Other State -1, SIFCC * - 1)
3)	Audiography	9 (7.5% Govt. School – 1, MBC/DNC-1, BC-3, OC-3, SIFCC * - 1)
4)	Film Editing	2 (BC)
5)	Animation and Visual Effects	2 (MBC/DNC-1, BC-1)
	*Applicants under the SIFCC quota must attach a certificate issued by the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce, certifying that the applicant's father or mother is associated with the film industry	

For eligibility criteria, age limit, and other relevant details for the above-mentioned courses, applicants are advised to visit the official website: **www.filminstitute.tn.gov.in**

Applications, along with all relevant documents and the prescribed **application fee to be paid only online** and can be submitted from **23.07.2025 to 30.07.2025.**

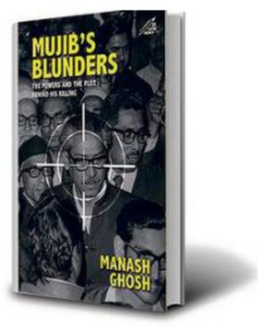
Application Fee: • **Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST)** applicants belonging to Tamil Nadu: ₹60/- (A copy of the caste certificate must be attached)
• All other categories: ₹200/-

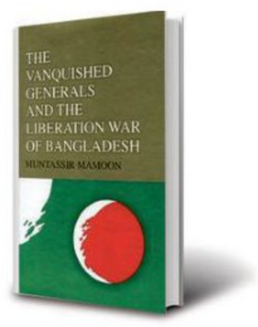
Principal (FAC)
Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R. Film and Television Institute
C.I.T. Campus, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113.

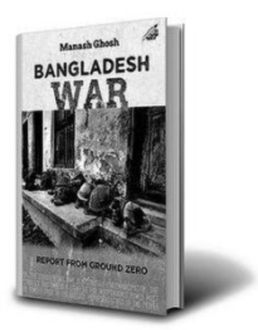
DIPR / 827 / DISPLAY / 2025

A BG-BGE

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Behind the scenes: Demonstrators during a rally to mark one month of the ousting of the country's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka on September 5, 2024. AFP

A father and a daughter, and the political volatility of Bangladesh

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's killing in 1975 and Sheikh Hasina's exit in 2024 have striking similarities, says a writer who has kept an eye on the country since his serendipitous reporting of the Liberation War in 1971. Did the Americans have a hand in both events? Three books examine the claims

Ziya Us Salam

Call it providence or whatever, veteran journalist, editor, author Manash Ghosh's fortuitous introduction to politics was to go a long way in helping him understand the crests and troughs of political leaders and ideologies in Bangladesh, India's eastern neighbour. As a cub reporter, he had gone to cover the Second Asian Highway Car Rally organised by a UN body, from Tehran to Dhaka. Instead, he ended up talking to a few locals. Years later, he wrote in his book, *Bangladesh War: Report from Ground Zero*, "I got talking to three Bengali strangers. Great talkers, as most Bengalis are, they chronicled for me the events on their own – from Field Marshal Ayub Khan's downfall to General Yahya Khan's rise to power, and Sheikh Mujib's six-point autonomy movement….I asked them point blank whether they were from Sheikh Mujib's Awami League. Their immediate riposte was, 'Every Bengali today, whether Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist, in East Pakistan, is a committed follower of Sheikh Mujib and his Awami League." That was in November 1970, barely months before the Liberation War.

The cost of arrogance

But why did the Liberation War take place? Among many reasons, was the supposed arrogance of West Pakistan's military and civil leadership. As expressed by Muntassir Mamoon who went to Pakistan some 25 years ago for his book *The Vanquished Generals and the Liberation War of Bangladesh*, "The general assumption was that the people in East Pakistan, because they were Bengalis, were pro-Hindu. Rao Farman Ali, the person responsible for the murder of the intellectuals in 1971, said that the Hindus were influencing the East Pakistanis. Major General Umar, who was the Secretary of the Security Council of Pakistan in 1971, expressed the same opinion. By pro-Hindu, they actually meant pro-India." Incidentally, Mamoon was asked, "After the creation of Pakistan, why did Jinnah first go to Karachi instead of Dhaka? He should have first gone to Dhaka because 56 per cent of the population of Pakistan were in the East." Probably, there lay the germ of the conflict.

Cut to August 2024 when Sheikh Mujib's elder daughter Sheikh Hasina was ousted from power and banished from the country. Hasina's ouster was a little under 50 years after Mujib, once said to have had the support of every Bangladeshi, was killed on August 15, 1975. Ghosh, widely respected as an expert on Bangladesh politics, clears the cobwebs in his new book. As he writes in the epilogue of *Blunders: The Power and the Plot Behind his Killing*, "There are striking similarities between what happened preceding 15 August 1975 – when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with 18 of his family members was killed – and that which occurred almost 50 years later on 5 August 2024 again in Dhaka when Mujib's elder daughter Sheikh Hasina was ousted from power in a bloodless coup. While in the case of Mujib, the CIA station chief in Dacca was the specific actor, in his daughter's case, there were two actors – Peter Haas, the U.S. envoy in Dhaka, and an American Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu – who had already earned tremendous notoriety of being a past master in covert regime change operations having toppled, in the recent past, governments in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal."

Power games

It might appear surprising to a layman who bought into the claims of a student revolution in the country, but in Ghosh's view in the book, it was far from it. He writes, "Hasina was anathema to Dhaka-based American diplomats who did not forgive her for rejecting out of hand their government's request to hand over the offshore St. Martin's island in the Bay of Bengal on a long lease to the Americans. The latter wanted to build a U.S. naval base for keeping an eye on Chinese and Indian naval build-up in the region. Washington wanted to have a regime led by someone who would be beholden to it and enjoyed its full trust and confidence."

It's quite possible that students and the people of Bangladesh did not understand the politics behind Hasina's removal. But what of Mujib's blunders after he had everything going for him? The picture is cleared by Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, who writes in the foreword of Ghosh's book, "Mujib failed to punish the collaborators of Pakistan out of compassion…Mujib failed to foresee that these pro-Pakistan elements would take full advantage of his magnanimity and impede his policies for the benefit of Pakistan. One such example was the 1972 India-Bangladesh Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. The treaty was attacked…for being an instrument of India's hegemonistic design…China and Pakistan conveyed their disapproval to Bangladesh…China had not recognised Bangladesh and this was used as an excuse to decry the treaty." Incidentally, China recognised Bangladesh only after Mujib's assassination during the dictatorship of Gen Ziaur Rehman who was known for his anti-India stance. During the decade-long rule of Major Zia's widow, Begum Khaleda Zia, the Liberation War was dubbed an 'India-inspired controversy which robbed Muslim Bengalis of their religious rights and identity'.

Tragic twist

Indeed, Mujib was too trusting of those not worthy of his trust. He paid the ultimate price. His country suffered too. Recalls Ghosh in his thoughtfully written book, "Mujib, or Bangabandhu, as he was popularly known, even after witnessing acts of betrayal by his supposed 'very close' confidants, like Mushtaq and Taheruddin Thakur…had sought to ignore the clear warning signals. He had been warned by Tajuddin not to be blind to the misdeeds of the venous snakes in the grass that abounded in the party." Interestingly, in a rare departure from the spotlight on Mujib, Ghosh seeks to give Tajuddin (prime minister in exile in India) credit for much of the early success, writing, "Bangladesh would never have been liberated had Tajuddin not been the prime minister of the interim government. His unique leadership capability to bring people of different political hues, professions and religious faiths under the liberation war fold remains unparalleled."

In fact, Tajuddin went back to Dhaka only after getting the Bangladesh currency notes printed in Nashik Press.

It didn't prove a wise decision for him then.

From 1971 to 2025, Bangladesh has experienced political volatility. Warns Ghosh, "Political turbulence will gather steam and instability will continue to haunt this eastern neighbour of India. Hasina's Awami League is no pushover and far from a vanquished force."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Arthritis is a significant health concern in India, affecting an estimated 180 million people. A quiz on the health condition

Athira Elssa Johnson

QUESTION 1
What is the most common type of arthritis that causes joint pain and stiffness due to wear and tear of cartilage?

QUESTION 2
Name one autoimmune form of arthritis that primarily affects the joints and can also impact organs like the lungs or eyes.

QUESTION 3
The medical specialist who treats arthritis is called a _____ .

QUESTION 4
Regular physical activity can help reduce arthritis symptoms. True or False?

QUESTION 5
Which parts of the hand are commonly affected by osteoarthritis?

Visual question:
Identify this historical figure who made an important medical discovery related to arthritis. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In 1952, the Free Officers, a nationalistic military group led by _____, engineered a coup that overthrew King Farouk I of Egypt. **Ans: Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser**
2. This former emperor of Ethiopia is considered to be a defining figure in modern Ethiopian history. **Ans: Haile Selassie**
3. This English actor is one of the most recognisable actors in the world for this role he played in a film series from 2001 to 2011. **Ans: Daniel Radcliffe, Harry Potter**
4. This American activist, born on this day, became internationally known in the late 1990s after U.S. President Bill Clinton admitted to having had an affair with her. **Ans: Monica Lewinsky**
5. This company introduced the hugely influential Model T. **Ans: Ford Motor Company**
Visual: Identify this American astronaut. **Ans: Eileen Collins**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Sunil Madhavan| Arun Kumar Singh| Piyali Tuli| Dodo Jayaditya

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"The movie that you went to yesterday has got great reviews."

"It shouldn't have. There's nothing great about the film. It's the same old story. The hero is a confidence man and he…"

"You mean the hero is a confident man, not confidence man."

"No, I mean confidence man. A confidence man is someone who cheats you out of your money or belongings by telling you things that are not true. For example, people from villages think that cities are full of confidence men."

"That's true! The city is full of confidence men. By the way, do conmen and confidence men mean the same thing?"

"Yes, they do."

"So, can I say, 'In movies, politicians are usually shown as conmen'?"

"Yes, you can. And the unfortunate thing is that not all politicians are confidence men. Some are, that's true, but…"

"…let's not talk about politicians. Let's get back to the movie. You didn't like it?"

"It left me cold."

"Left you cold? What does that mean?"

"When something leaves you cold, it means that it failed to excite or interest you. For example, I can say, 'The new chairman's speech left me cold.'"

"Meaning that you didn't find it interesting?"

"I found it terribly boring."

"Can I say, 'Classical music leaves me cold'?"

"You can, I suppose. But it certainly doesn't leave me cold. I love it. Here's another example: 'Madhuri's performance in the latest movie left me cold.'"

"How can you even say that? She has done a wonderful job. She…"

"Relax, will you? It was just an example. Some people go to the Taj and they are not at all impressed by it…"

"They must be crazy! So you can say, 'The Taj left him cold.'"

"But I can also say, 'The Taj didn't leave me cold,' right?"

"Right! Here's another example: 'Madhuri's performance never leaves you cold.'"

"That's true… You know…"

"Stop right there. I made a mistake using Madhuri as an example. When you start talking about Madhuri, you never stop. You just go on and on. The way you go on, you would talk the hind legs off a donkey."

"What? Did you just call me a donkey?"

"No, I didn't. I said you could talk the hind legs off a donkey. When you say that someone can talk the hind legs off a donkey, it means he/she talks a great deal without stopping and without telling the other person anything."

"Sounds like my next-door neighbour! Can I say, 'My next-door neighbour could talk the hind legs off a donkey'?"

"You certainly can."

"In that expression, hind refers to the back legs of the donkey. Is that correct?"

"That's right. I have a friend who can talk the hind legs off a donkey."

"Are you impressed with his ability to talk?"

"No, he leaves me cold."

"Speaking of cold, how about some nice ice cold tea?"

Published in The Hindu on May 13, 1997

Word of the day

Prudent:
careful and sensible; marked by sound judgment

Usage: *He is a prudent manager*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/prudentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɹuːdənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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ENTRY FREE & PARKING FREE
For Details Contact : 6364685716 / 9036658774
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our client ("**Client**") intends to acquire immoveable Property bearing No. 77/9 (Old No. 77/A and still earlier noted as Plot 'M' in No. 77), measuring 3480 square feet, situated at Nandidurg Road, Division No. 83, Bangalore, Property bearing No. 77/10 (earlier No. 77/B and still earlier plot No. 'N' in No.77), measuring 2861 square feet, situated at Nandidurg road, division NO. 83, Bangalore, and Property bearing No.77 now part of 77/10, measuring 1891 Square feet, situated at Nandidurg, Division No.83, Bangalore, Karnataka from its present owners. ("**Schedule Property**").

Any person(s) /party(ies) having any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner or objecting to such transaction may, write to the undersigned with requisite documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the issuance of this public notice, failing which, our Client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived and thereafter, no claims / objections / disputes will be entertained.

Any person(s)/party(ies) dealing directly or indirectly with regard to any of the properties or part(s) thereof listed in the Schedule below or in any other manner shall be doing so at his / her /their own cost, risk and consequences and our Client shall not be responsible for any such acts.

Sl. No	Property Number	Measuring	East	West	North	South
1	77/9	3480 square feet	Premises No. 77/10 and portion bearing No.77	Premises bearing old No. 19	Premises bearing old No. 16 and 17	Premises No. 77 belonging to Mrs. Dorathy S. Baily
2	77/10	2861 square feet	Property of Bangalore Woolen Cotton and silk Mills Co. ltd.	Premises No. 77/9	Property bearing Old No. 17	Portion of No. 77
3	No.77 now part of 77/10	1891 square feet	Property belonging to Bangalore Woolen Cotton and Silk Mills Ltd.	Premises No. 77 belonging to Mrs. D.S. Baily and partly by premises No. 77/9	Premises No. 77/10	Nandidurg Road

Sd/-
Prasanna. S, Advocate,
LAW CHAMBERS OF PRASANNA SWAMINATHAN
109, Level-1, Prestige Centre Point,
Cunningham Road, Bangalore – 560 051.
Phone: +91 99860 95950, Email: prasannaswaminathan91@gmail.com

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 23/07/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Original Absolute Sale Deed No.2849/1978-79, registered at Shivajinagar Sub-Registrar Office, Bangalore and Possession Certificate issued by BDA, not traceable. The property No.109, is located at Binnamangala II Stage, Bangalore. An FIR is lodged vide SL No.1707785/2025 Dated:17-07-2025, at Police Unit, Bangalore City.
Finders Please call Shashidhar Thamme Gowda, Phone: +9199809 91752, +91 9845 51 3319.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Smt.Akhila Jan** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original **1.** Sale deed dt.27.03.2004 registered as document No.53330/2003-04 of Book I, CD No. 176 and registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore North and **2.** Sale deed dt.27.03.2004 registered as document No.53332/2003-04 of Book I, stored in CD No. 176 and registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore North Taluk in respect of **Site No.42,** Gramatana No.113/1, measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **60 feet**, total measuring **2400 Sq.ft.,** and **Site No.57,** Gramatana No.113/1, measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **60 feet,** total measuring **2400 Sqft.,** both sites situated at **Laggere Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore** has been lost at the time of travelling.

All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale deeds. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide **Lost Report No.1715939/2025, dated 22.07.2025 and No. 1715922/2025, dated 22.07.2025.**

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule property, from its lawful owner **SMT.JAYAMMA. W/o Late. K.Anantharaju,** aged about 81 years, and her family members R/at No.361, Gulpet, Kolar-563 101. Any person /institutions claiming to have any right, title, charge, lien or minor claims whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge his/her/their/its claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within **Seven (7) days** of this publication failing which it will be presumed that there are no objections or claims or disputes in respect of the schedule property and my client shall proceed to get the schedule property conveyed in their favour. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Residential house property bearing **No.643-8,** E-Katha PID No.8743959844, situated at **10th D Main Road, IVth Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru,** measuring an extent East to West 65 feet's and North to South 39 feets, totally measuring 2535 Sq.ft's, along with 400 squares house, and bounded on:

East by : Site No.654 and 655, West by : 10th B Main Road, North by : Site No.644, South by : Site No.642.

Lokesh K.M, Advocates
3/1 (Old No.359), 1st Floor, 14th Cross, 4th Main, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-80.
Ph :080 23618018, 9686069328

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of my client **Mrs. Archana C and Mr. Surendar Jakka** is willing to purchase the property which is more particularly described in the schedule hereunder owned by **Mr. Gururaj Nath S,** i.e All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing no. 176, having Panchayathi Katha no 565/176 RDPR PID No. 150200103200802624, measuring East to west 40 feet and North to South 50 feet, Totally measuring 2000 Sq Feet which is carved out of the land bearing Sy no 86/1 & 82/2 in the layout formed and known as **"GRAND ICON"** situated at **Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk,** now coming under the jurisdiction of Hennagara Village Panchayat.

It is hereby informed that any person(s) having any claim in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emption or under any Agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or Award or otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at the office of **Ashvik Law Associates, Advocates and Solicitors,** within a period of **7 days** of the publication hereof Non filing such objection is considered as waver of rights and have no right to claim subsequently.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the **Site bearing no 176,** having Panchayathi Katha no 565/176 RDPR PID No. 150200103200802624, measuring East to west **40 feet** and North to South **50 feet,** totally measuring **2000 Sq Feet** which is carved out of the land bearing Sy no 86/1 and 82/2 in the layout formed and know as GRAND ICON situated at **Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk,** now coming under the jurisdiction of Hennagara Village Panchaya and bounded:

East by : Site no 139
West by : 30 feet road
North by : Site no 177 and
South by : 40 feet road

Ashvik Law Associates,
Advocates and Solicitors,
Office at No.24, First Floor,
Sri Rama Mandir Road,
Near to Lalbagh Metro Station,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004.

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E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 13.08.2025

Last date of EMD : 12.08.2025

ARM – 2 Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310181. E-Mail – cb6298@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-2,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **13.08.2025** at **1:00 PM to 3:00 PM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **12.08.2025 .**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid
1.	1.**M/s. SLN CNC Tech Pvt Ltd** No.8, 9th Cross, Rajagopalnagar Main Road, Ganapathi Nagar, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangaluru, Karnataka -560058 **2.Mr. M. L. B. Gowda** **Date: 13/05/2024** No.11, 2nd C Cross, AGBG 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Karnataka - 560086 **3.Mr. M. V. Ashoka** **S/o Sri M. B. Virupaksharaddhya,** At 2, 6th Cross, Nagadevanhalli, Jnanbharathi Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560056 **4.Mrs. M.V.Suma** At Panchanahalli, Kadur, Karnataka -577182 **5.Mr. Shiva Prasad J. M.** No.63, 4th Block, 4th Cross, RMV 2nd Stage, Dollars Colony, MLA Layout, Bangalore-560094 **6.Mrs. Umadevamma** **W/o Sri. B. R. Shivanna,** No.42, 9th Main Road, 4th Cross, Near Central Library, Hampinagara, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560040	All that piece and parcel of the House Property Site No.63, New Municipal No.63, BBMP PID No.100-760-63, situated at Rajmahal Vilas, 2nd Stage, 4th Block Extension 4th Cross, Dollars Colony, M.L.A Layout, Bengaluru in the layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, Ward No.18, measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 80 Feet in all measuring 444.44 Square Yards or 4,000 Square Feet, together with residential building constructed thereon and bounded on the : **East by:** Site No 62, **West by:** Site No 64, **North by :** Site No 59 and **South :** Road.	**Rs. 14,82,44,498.23/- as on 22.07.2025** Plus further interest and cost thereon	a) ₹ 12,50,00,000/- b) ₹ 1,25,00,000/- c) ₹ 1,00,000/-

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
Fordetailedtermsandconditionsofthesale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.canarabank.com/english/announcements/sale-notice/karnataka/ provided on the Secured Creditors' Website i.e www.canarabank.com. or may contact Chief Manager, ARM Branch II Bangalore, Canara Bank, Ph. No.9113092975, 8921102717, 9201460154, 9483544116, 8709675503 and 080-25310181 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 23.07.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer,
Canara Bank

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- ☑ Uganda Artifacts
- ☑ Afghanistan Dry Fruits
- ☑ Korea Pearl Jewellery
- ☑ Malaysia Outdoor Furniture
- ☑ Thai Oils & Balms
- ☑ Thailand Women Clothing
- ☑ Thai Umbrellas
- ☑ Thailand Ladies Hand Bags
- ☑ Thailand Silk Shawls
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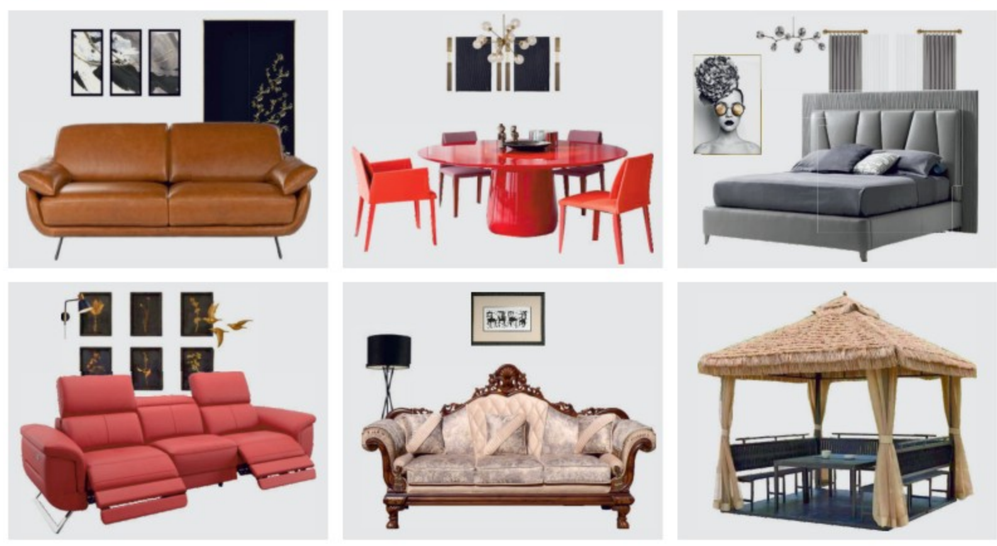

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Job fair and education expo at BCU tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City University (BCU), in collaboration with Edu Factory, Devel Up, QUESS, and Rotary Bangalore West, will host a job fair and education expo on Friday on its city campus.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. With over 60 corporate exhibitors participating, the visitors can explore a wide range of job opportunities, internships, and career development resources.z

Open to students, alumni, and professionals, the fair is free of charge. Participants are encouraged to bring multiple copies of their resumes and dress professionally to make the most of networking and recruitment opportunities.

Interested individuals can register online at https://tcf.educactory.in. For more details, visit www.bcu.ac.in.

Myntra and SIMPL come under ED scanner for suspected FEMA violations

The Central agency claims to have begun probe based on credible information that Myntra and its linked companies were doing multi-brand retail trade in the guise of wholesale cash and carry, allegedly in violation of the extant FDI policy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Wednesday announced that they had taken up a case under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) against Myntra Design Private Limited, companies linked to it, and their directors for alleged contravention to the tune of ₹1,654 crore.

The Central agency claimed that the investigations were initiated based on credible information that Myntra and its linked companies were doing multi-brand retail trade in the guise of wholesale cash and carry, allegedly in violation of the extant FDI policy.

According to the ED, Myntra had declared that they engaged in wholesale cash and carry business, inviting and receiving funds from FDI to the tune of ₹ 1,654 crore. Further, the central agency alleged that Myntra sold the majority of its goods to Vector E-commerce Pvt. Limited, a company that sells goods in retail to customers. Vector is a company under the group that owns Myntra.

The Central agency said that Vector was created and continued as a corporate entity to bifurcate Business to Customer (B2C) transactions (Myntra to customers) into Business to Business (Myntra to Vector) and then B2C (Vector to Myntra). ED alleged that Myntra has violated conditions laid for wholesale or cash and carry trading, which permit only 25% of sales to companies of the same groups and group companies.

Myntra and other companies have allegedly contravened the provisions as per FEMA, 1999, and the consolidated FDI policy dated April and October 2010, to the tune of ₹1,654 crore.

Reacting to the allegations, a Myntra spokesperson said that they are deeply committed to upholding all applicable laws of the land and operating with the highest standards of compliance and integrity. "By working closely with Indian brands and sellers, artisans, and weavers, we have helped bring traditional craftsmanship to a global audience, particularly among the Indian diasporas. In doing so, we've strengthened the industry's digital backbone and created large-scale employment and entrepreneurship opportunities across the country. While we have not received a copy of the subject complaint and the supporting documents from the authorities, we remain fully committed to cooperating with them at any point in time," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, in a separate case, the ED said that they booked One Sigma Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (SIMPL), under FEMA and its director, Nithya Nand Sharma, for alleged contravention to the tune of ₹913.75 crore.

"The enquiries were initiated based on credible information that One Sigma Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (SIMPL) has received a substantial amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the United States of America, allegedly in violation of the extant FDI policy," the ED said.

"One Sigma Technologies Pvt. Ltd. runs its business through a mobile application named SIMPL. It provides Buy Now Pay Later services, which allow its customers to buy now and pay later in installments," ED said.

"It was learnt that One Sigma Technologies Pvt. Ltd. received FDI to the tune of ₹648 crore and issued convertible notes to the tune of ₹264 crore under the 100% automatic route by declaring its business activity as benefits of information technology and other computer service activities," said the ED. It is alleged that the company received FDI under the automatic route and issued convertible notes under the automatic route without obtaining prior approval from the Government of India.

Red alert for coastal Karnataka till July 27

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday issued red alert (extremely heavy rainfall of over 204.5 m.m.) for coastal Karnataka till 8.30 a.m. on July 27. It said that squally weather with wind speed 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph likely to prevail along and off Karnataka coast till July 26. Hence the IMD advised fishermen not to venture into the sea during the period.

Udupi district received 51 mm rainfall in 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Dakshina Kannada District Disaster Management Authority said that 30 electricity poles and 11 transformers of Mescom were damaged in the district. In addition, 24.83 km of rural roads and a house were damaged.

The district recorded 32 mm rainfall against the normal 40 mm rainfall during the period. The cumulative rainfall recorded in the district from January till date stood at 3,026 mm against the normal rainfall of 2,091 mm.

Three sentenced to seven years imprisonment in K.G. Halli case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The NIA court on Wednesday convicted three among the 138 accused involved in the Kadugondana Halli (K.G. Halli) police station attack case, and sentenced them to seven years of imprisonment, with a fine of ₹36,000 each.

The trio, Syed Ikramuddin, 44, Syed Asif, 46, and Mohammed Atif, 26, are among the 187 arrested out of the 199 accused in the case. The trio, who are presently in judicial custody at Parappana Agarahara prison, pleaded guilty. Among the NIA charge-sheeted 138 people, four surrendered, and one died.

Case background

It may be recalled that on August 11, 2020, a group of 25 to 30 people gathered in front of the K.G. Halli police station and started shouting slogans demanding the arrest of one Naveen, nephew of Akhanda Srinivas Murthy, an MLA, who had allegedly posted a derogatory message on his Facebook account insulting Prophet Mohammed.

The group, led by Syed Ikramuddin (accused no. 14), and others, entered the K.G. Halli police station demanding registration of a case against Naveen and others. The police accepted the complaint with acknowledgement that a case had already been registered at Devara Jeevana Halli (D.J. Halli) police station on the same day in this regard.

The gathering at K.G. Halli police station was increasing gradually, and becoming violent, following a similar situation near the D.J. Halli police station area.

Considering the gravity of the situation, the then Commissioner of Police imposed curfew under the D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli police stations limits.

The gathered crowd intensified their protest by shouting slogans, and turned to violent activities. The police then resorted to 'Lathi' charge in order to control the crowd. During the incident, the rioters damaged a total of 12 government and private vehicles.

The NIA took over the case after re-registering the FIR on September 21, 2020.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 13/2025/SBC Date : 18.07.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Tender No.	Description in brief (E-open Tender)	Qty.	Unit
1	L8256117	Supply of MAST B 150 Supply of MAST B 175 Supply of MAST B 200	14846.6 23303 14466	Kgs
2	L8255775	Design, Manufacture, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of heavy duty reversible type escalator along with CAMC.	23	No's
3	L8256080	CAST STEEL BOGIE COMPLETE AS PER RDSO DRG. NO. CONTR 9404,S-2, ALT-7	16	No's

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 10.30 hrs on 18.08.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Material Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/319/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/13 Dated: 17-07-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification in connection with proposed GCT siding work of M/s BPCL Ltd at Devangonthi Station.	Rs. 2,01,55,170.83

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 08-08-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru

PUB/317/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that my client, **Divya Janardhana Nagri**, D/o. M. L. Janardhana Nagri and also GPA holder, residing at Du Parc Residency, Flat A1, Ground Floor, No. 503, 5th Main, Vijaya Bank Layout, B.G. Road, Bengaluru, has lost the following original property documents on 10.02.2025 at BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bengaluru:

1. Allotment Letter,
2. Possession Certificate &
3. MUDA Khatha

The above documents pertain to Site No. 897, located at Gokulam 3rd Stage, Devaraj Mohalla, Mysore; Measuring: East to West: 53' feet North to South : 60' feet and bounded by: East by: site no. 898, West by: Road, North by: site no. 930 and South by: Road

were issued by the Mysuru Development Authority (MUDA), Mysuru.

An online complaint regarding the lost has been filed on 01.07.2025 with Bengaluru City Police under Lost Report No. 1680418/2025.

Any person who finds or is in possession of the said documents is requested to immediately return them to the address below or inform the juridictionnel police station or any nearby police station or contact undersigned.

Date: 23.07.2025
Bengaluru

Sd/-
G.N. Dhananjaya, Advocate
G.N.D Associates
No. 241, Double Road, BEML Layout, 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru – 560098.

झारखण्ड राज्य बिवरेजेज कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड, राँची
(झारखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)

कॉरपोरेट पहचान सं0 –U51228JH2010SGC014519,
TIN No - 20520108277 **E-mail :- jsbcl.jharkhand@gmail.com**
उत्पाद भवन, भूतल, नवीन पुलिस केंद्र के समीप,
काँके रोड़, राँची – 834008

पत्रांक:–**JSBCL/Est.-360/22-23/1710** राँची, दिनांक:–22 / 07 / 2025

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति हेतु अल्पकालीन ई–आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–JSBCL/03, दिनांक–21.07.2025, जिसका– Advt. P.R. No.- 357845 (Excise) 25-26 (D) में सुरक्षित जमा राशि के विवरण का क्रमांक संख्या– 02 में वर्णित "शेष अन्य जिलों के लिए रू0 3,00,000/–" के स्थान पर "शेष अन्य जिलों के लिए रू0 5,00,000/–" पढ़ा एवं समझा जाय।

ह0/–
महाप्रबंधक (संचालन)
झारखण्ड राज्य बिवरेजेज कॉरपोरेशन
लिमिटेड, झारखण्ड, राँची

PR 357998 Excise(25-26)#D

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU (DRT-2)
Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services
Debt Recovery Tribunal - II Karnataka (Bengaluru)
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT. 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961
RC/182/2023 IN O.A No. 1077/2018

BANK OF BARODA
Versus
Benaka Agarbatti Industries Rep. By Its Partner Sri.R.Thippeswamy & Others

To,
(CH) BANK OF BARODA, Narasapura Branch, Kolar District **.....CERTIFICATE HOLDER**

Vs

(CD 1) BENAKA AGARBATTI INDUSTRIES Rp by its Partner Sri. R. Thippeswamy, S/o Rangamma. No 57, Ist A Main RR Layout, Nagadevanahalli Bangalore-560056
(CD 2) SRI. R. THIPPESWAMY,S/o RANGANNA, R/at. No.57, 1st 'A' Main, RR Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore -560056
(CD 3) SMT.S.VEENA, W/o R.THIPPESWAMY. R/at. No.57, 1st 'A' Main, RR Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore -560056 **.....CERTIFICATE DEBTORS**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of order passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (drt-2) in **OA/1077/2018** an amount of **Rs.1228902 (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousands Nine Hundred Two Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 12.70% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. **11.07.2018** till realization and costs of **Rs 15005 (Rupees Fifteen Thousands Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within **15 days** of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned with in 15 days from the publishing of this for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate /execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **02.12.2023**

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 to the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993(Amended from time to time) which is reproduced as under: "Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the debts recovery officer nor shall be any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.
2. Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter or any debt, divided or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.
3. You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

Sd/-
RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
BENGALURU (DRT-2)

COPY TO :-
BANK OF BARODA
Narasapura Branch, Kolar District

You are directed that the payment made, if any, by the Certificate Debtor(s) be credited to the consolidated account of all debts due in this case from the Certificate Debtor(s) and the Recovery Officer kept posted with the payment position regularly. The consolidated account so maintained will be subject to the verification of the Recovery Officer. You are further directed to submit an up to date statement of the total claim in respect of the above matter and full details of property particulars wherefrom the recovery of the debt is to be made.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & FOREST DEPARTMENT
TAMIL NADU GREEN CLIMATE COMPANY

Notification No: 03/2025, Dated: 23.07.2025
Request for Proposal (RFP)

Request for Proposal (RFP) is invited by the Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company, Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department for selection of Hiring Consultancy Firm for "Engaging a Carbon Portfolio Manager for Nature-Based Carbon Credit Projects under Voluntary Carbon Markets". For Further details of the Request for Proposal (RFP), please visit the website: **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **24.07.2025, 11:00 AM**

Chief Executive Officer,
Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company
10th Floor, CMRL Building, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai- 35.

DIPR/3776/TENDER/2025

झारखण्ड सरकार
क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका

अल्पकालीन ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना **(1st Call)**
ई–निविदा प्रसंग सं0:–**RCD/FSD/AP/DUM/08/2025-26**
दिनांक:–**23.07.2025**

1.	कार्य का नाम	Consultancy services for preparation of **Detailed Project Report For Widening, Strengthening & Reconstruction of Road from Mohanpur More (On Vidyasagar - Karamdah Road) To Kuruwa (Sibu Soren Chowk) Deoghar Border** including replacement of culverts and bridges, proposal for new culverts and bridges, complete Land Acquisition Proposal including ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal and Forest Diversion Proposal with clearance of all stages etc. as required Under Road Division **Jamtara** in the state of Jharkhand. **(Tentative Length -10.00 Km)**
2.	अनुमानित लंबाई	10. 00 कि० मी०
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	60 दिन
4.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	25.07.2025, 05.00 बजे अपराह्न
5.	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	08.08.2025, 12.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
6.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	11.08.2025, 01.00 बजे अपराह्न
7.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका।
8.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का संपर्क नं0	8292901787
9.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल को हेल्पलाईन नं0	0651–2401010

अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट पर देखें :–http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in

कार्यपालक अभियंता,क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका

PR 357982 (Road)25-26*D

न्यायालय समाहर्त्ता -सह- जिला दण्डाधिकारी, गया जी
(मद्य–निषेध, उत्पाद एवं निबंधन विभाग)
ज्ञापांक 2084
अतिअल्पकालीन नीलामी सूचना

बिहार सरकार

एतद् द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बिहार राज्य में पूर्ण शराबबंदी के उपरांत शराब के परिवहन में प्रयुक्त वाहनों को समाहर्त्ता–सह–जिला दंडाधिकारी, गया जी/प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी, गया जी द्वारा बिहार मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम 2016 (यथा संशोधित) में निहित प्रावधानों के अधीन वाहनों का राज्यसात आदेश पारित किया गया है।

समाहर्त्ता–सह–जिला दंडाधिकारी, गया जी/प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी, गया जी द्वारा किए गए राज्यसात वाहनों का सार्वजनिक आम नीलामी (पॉलिसी एक्ट) जिला परिषद, सभाकक्ष, गया जी में पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे से की जायेगी। नीलामी में भाग लेने वाले व्यक्तियों को स्तंभ– 7 में अंकित मूल्यांकन राशि का 50 प्रतिशत स्तंभ– 8 में अंकित राशि अग्रधन के रूप में आवेदन पत्र के साथ बैंक ड्राफ्ट जो Assistant Comissioner of Excise, Gaya के पदनाम से एवं Payable at SBI Main Branch Gaya होगा। सारणी में अंकित सार्वजनिक नीलामी हेतु वाहनों की सूची निम्न प्रकार से है।:–

वाहन नीलामी की तिथि		आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	आवेदन प्राप्त करने का स्थान
नीलामी की पहली तिथि	11.08.2025 समय–11:30 पूर्वाह्न से	07.08.2025 को समय–05:00 अपराह्न तक	कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त मद्यनिषेध, गया जी।
शेष बचे वाहनों की नीलामी की द्वितीय तिथि	14.08.2025 समय–11:30 पूर्वाह्न से	12.08.2025 को समय–05:00 अपराह्न तक	
शेष बचे वाहनों की नीलामी की तृतिय तिथि	21.08.2025 समय–11:30 पूर्वाह्न से	18.08.2025 को समय–05:00 अपराह्न तक	

क्र० सं०	उत्पाद अधिहरण वाद सं०	थाना का नाम	काण्ड सं०/उत्पाद वाद सं०/दिनांक	वाहन का प्रकार	वाहन पंजीकरण सं०	इंजन सं०	चेचिस सं०	मोटरयान निरीक्षक द्वारा निर्धारित मुल्य	अग्रधन की राशि	वाहन मालिक	अभियुक्त
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1	25/23 17.07.2023	वजीरगंज	11/23 06.01.2023	बजाज प्लसर 220 मोटरसाईकिल	KA51EZ -1799	DKYCH E45025	MD2A13EY HCE54902	₹ 31,000.00	₹ 15,500.00	आनन्द प्रभात पिता–जीवन कुमार, Mo.-18/19 FLAT No.-202, MN BTM 2ND STAGE, Dist.-Bangalore, State- Karnataka, Pin Code-560076	

विशेष जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त मद्यनिषेध, गया जी में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में संपर्क किया जा सकता है।
विस्तृत जानकारी **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

सहायक आयुक्त मद्यनिषेध गया जी

PR. No. 009213 (Excise) 2025-26

सुरक्षित जीवन अपनाओ, अपनी नियमित एच.आई.वी. जाँच कराओ।

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD
B.K.CHOWK, FARIDABAD,HARYANA , 121001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Invitation for Innovative Technology & Proven Solutions from Individuals, Startups, and Companies

Municipal Corporation Faridabad (MCF) invites individuals, startups and established companies to collaborate on new-age , innovative smart technology & proven solutions across the following key thematic areas:

- Solid Waste Management
- Sanitation & Public Health
- Water Supply & Wastewater Management
- Urban Governance & Citizen Engagement
- Air Quality Management
- Affordable Housing & Urban Planning
- Urban Mobility & Transport
- Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Response
- Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
- Digital Infrastructure & Smart Technologies
- Climate Resilience & Urban Environment
- Any other smart & proven solutions for enhancing urban services

Interested entities with relevant expertise and proven solutions are encouraged to submit expressions of interest (EOI) along with work profile and solution.

- *Last Date for Submission by Email: 15th August 2025*
- *Email ID: cmcfaridabad@ulbharyana.gov.in, mcfchiefengineer@gmail.com,mc2swmsbm@gmail.com*
- *Contact No.- +918750551500*

Sd /-
Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Faridabad

1078/11/774/2026/36897/C/199/29

Let's work together to build a smarter, greener, and more sustainable Faridabad.

What goes where in the new corporation set-up?

A decision is yet to be taken whether trade licences should be uniform across the city and issued by GBA or each corporation should issue separate licences in their jurisdictions

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

With the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) now being split into five corporations, questions are being raised about what functions and assets of the civic body should be transferred to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) at the pan-city level and what should be retained with each of the five new corporations.

"An activity mapping exercise would be useful to list all corporation activities . This should cover the activity, the service provider(s) responsible for budgeting, planning, asset creation, monitoring and operation, and maintenance activity, and role for the ward committee," said V. Ravichandar, member of Brand Bengaluru Committee, which proposed the multiple corporations set-up.

A section of water conservation activists and urban experts has been arguing that SWDs and lakes have to be handed over to the BWSSB. K. MURALI KUMAR

Major projects
The State government has floated the task to Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) and transferred all major projects, including tunnel roads, to the same. The Major Road Infrastructure Department, which is tasked with operation and maintenance of arterial roads, will also be transferred to B-SMILE, sources said. Border roads between the corporations will also likely be transferred to B-SMILE. While the corporations will have a road infrastructure department to maintain roads within the respective corporations and a projects division to spearhead infrastructure projects within their respective boundaries, roads and projects that span multiple corporations will likely be handled by B-SMILE, sources said.

Waste management
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML) has already been tasked with collection, transportation and processing of solid waste in the city. This system will continue and each of the five corporations will have a vendor-client relationship with BSWML and give the company garbage user fee they collect as part of property tax. "In a city like London, some boroughs send out their waste incurring expenses while some boroughs have put up waste processing plants and ensured waste is a source of income for them. Such proposals may come up in the city as well at a future date," an official said.

SWDs
The city has a network of 829 km of Storm Water Drains (SWDs), spanning the boundaries of multiple corporations and 210 lakes, part of three main valleys, which also span the boundaries of multiple corporations, necessitating a pan-city approach to both SWDs and lakes.

A section of water conservation activists and urban experts have been arguing that SWDs and lakes have to be handed over to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the Board be made an integrated water management body in the city. "The biggest bane of both SWDs and lakes in the city is sewage, and that is with the BWSSB. Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are with BWSSB. Handing over SWDs and lakes to BWSSB will bring in accountability in the sector. Moreover, if groundwater monitoring is also handed over to the Board, the city will have one agency planning for all its water needs," said V. Ramprasad, of Friends of Lakes.

However, water conservationist S. Vishwanath argued that the maintenance and upkeep of lakes, which is also a public space, and SWDs need to be with respective corporations, while capital expenditure on these assets can be moved to a GBA-level body, whichever the government may seem fit.

Planning department
At present, building plan approvals are given at the zonal level and only approvals for highrises and bigger commercial buildings above a certain sq. ft. are subject to review from the BBMP head office. While the same system will continue in the new corporations for smaller buildings at the ward level, whether plan approvals for high rises and issuing Occupancy Certificates (OCs) to them should come to the GBA-level or the respective corporation level has reportedly turned into a bone of contention. Sources said moves are afoot to keep it at the GBA-level.

A decision is yet to be taken whether trade licences should be uniform across the city and issued by GBA or whether each corporation should issue separate trade licences in their jurisdictions. Meanwhile, parks, streetlights and crematoriums will be under the in-charge of respective corporations, sources said.

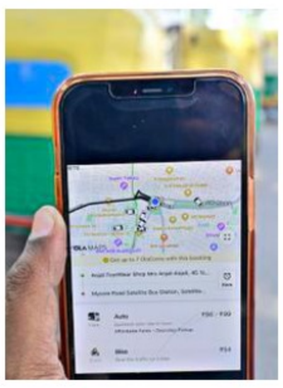
Cab drivers protest against penalties for excess fares charged by aggregators

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka App-based Workers' Union, along with the Raghu Peace Auto Union, held a protest in Bengaluru against penalising drivers for excess charges implemented by cab and auto aggregators.

The unions alleged that RTO officers have been 'wrongfully targeting drivers' and issuing challans ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹12,000.

"Aggregator companies are charging passengers excess amounts, but RTO is penalising the drivers. The aggregators are supposed to follow the rates fixed by the government of Karnataka. Instead, they are charging higher fares. The apps are taking the money, and the penalty is falling upon the drivers," said Mohammed Inayath Ali from Karnataka App-based Workers' Union.



A file photo of an app being used to book an auto in Bengaluru.

Unions allege RTO officers have been wrongfully targeting drivers and issuing challans

Significant difference
The government has fixed rates for autorickshaw rides – ₹30 for the first 1.9 km, and ₹15 per additional kilometre. This is set to be revised to ₹36 and ₹18, respectively, from August 1.

For cabs, the minimum fare ranges from ₹100 to ₹130, and the rate for every additional kilometre ranges from ₹24 to ₹32, depending on the model of the vehicle.

A document from the RTO, which was seen by *The Hindu*, showed that at least nine cabs and 25 autos operating with aggregators were recorded as charging excess fares on July 21. While the difference between the government-fixed rate and the fare charged by the app for cabs was around ₹250, in the case of autos, it went up to around ₹495 in one case.

Challans not withdrawn
"For the past eight days, officers have been cracking down on drivers. If the driver is physically demanding more money than what is being displayed on the app, penalise them. Instead, they are being fined for the excess money that is being charged by the app companies when officials should actually be taking the aggregators to task," Mr. Ali remarked.

The drivers alleged that, during the protest, the officials promised to withdraw the challans. However, they have not acted on it. Some noted that a few platforms have agreed to reimburse the challan amount.

Transport Department officials were not available for comment.

HC allows levy of fee for building plan sanction based on guidance value

FRM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday allowed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to levy fees for building licence/plan sanction, issuance of completion and occupancy certificates, and ground rent, etc., based on "guidance value" of the properties for the time being, by staying the June 5 verdic of a single judge.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi passed the interim order on an appeal filed by the BBMP challenging the single judge's verdict, which had set aside amendments to the BBMP Act to levy these fees based on the "guidance value."

To refund
However, the Bench made it clear that the BBMP will have to refund the fees that it collects during the pendency of the proceedings if the final judgement on the appeal goes against the BBMP.

The single judge had said that services related to the sanction of plan for building construction rendered by the BBMP had nothing to do with the market value of the property.

He had said there was no logic in linking rates with the guidance value of the properties in different areas, notified by the government under the Karnataka Stamp Act for the collection of stamp duty, while emphasising that at best, a uniform rate can be levied depending upon the size of the plot and the extent of constructions.

BMRCL asked to consider plea for metro station at Bettahalasur Cross

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) to consider representations given by the public for construction of a metro station at Bettahalasuru Cross on the airport link line of Phase-2B metro project as was originally planned.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi issued the direction while disposing of a PIL petition, filed by B.G. Nanjundappa and four others from Bettahalasur area.

The petitioners pointed out that a station at Bettahalasur Cross is essential as it is situated between Bagalur and Doddajala stations. FILE PHOTO

Not court's domain
However, the Bench made it clear that it cannot issue any specific direction on the issue of construction of the station as the issue does not come under the domain of the court.

The petitioners had complained that the BMRCL in 2019 planned a metro station at Bettahalasur Cross, had acquired land for this purpose, and paid compensation to the land owners. However, the BMRCL dropped the plan of constructing station at Bettahalasur Cross.

On enquiry made through RTI, the petitioner came to know that the plan of the station at Bettahalasur Cross was dropped as a private company, Embassy Group, had backed out from sponsoring the station as was agreed earlier.

In public interest
However, the petitioners have said that withdrawal of the private company from sponsoring the station should not result in construction of a station as it would be responsibility of the BMRCL to construction the station in public interest.

The petitioners have also pointed out that a station at Bettahalasur Cross is essential as it is situated between Bagalur and Doddajala stations, which are situated around 4 km away from Bettahalasur Cross on either side, as the BMRCL's proposal is to have a station for every 4 km.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUL. 24	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 05:20	SET 18:39
FRIDAY, JUL. 25	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:49
RISE 06:21	SET 19:29
SATURDAY, JUL. 26	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:48
RISE 07:19	SET 20:13

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	22
Mysuru	27	20
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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First exports from BBP: Japan to welcome four elephants

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP), Bengaluru, is all set to make its first export in its history of animal exchanges. A batch of four Asian elephants – one male and three females – will be sent to Himeji Central Park - Safari Park, Himeji, Japan. Suresh, 8, Gowri, 9, Shruthi, 7, and Tulsi, 5, are being sent after the park got the necessary approvals from the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi and other departments, said the BBP in a release.

"The exchange is a part of a larger multi exchange programme, where in return, the park will receive four cheetahs, four jaguars, four pumas, three chimpanzees and eight black-capped capuchins. The elephants will be transported through a Qatar Airways cargo plane from Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru to Kansai International Airport, Osaka on July 24 and 25. The total transportation time will be around approximately 20 hours from Bannerughatta Biological Park to Himeji Central Park - Safari Park," the release added.

BBP has 26 captive elephants and every year two or three are added to the herd — the highest for any zoo in the country. K. MURALI KUMAR

The BBP will receive four cheetahs, four jaguars, four pumas, three chimpanzees and eight black-capped capuchins

The park said that the animals have been trained for the past six months for this transportation and are cleared for good health to make the journey.

The animals will be accompanied by two veterinary doctors from Himeji Central Park and two veterinary officers from Bannerughatta Biological Park, four keepers, one supervisor and one biologist from Bannerughatta Biological Park.

A total of eight persons from Bannerughatta Biological Park will visit and stay at the Himeji Central Park for two weeks to train the elephants to acclimatise to the new environment, the release added.

"Further, elephant keepers of Himeji Central Park were also trained in Bannerughatta Biological Park for around 20 days from May 12 to 25, 2025.

All the preparations for logistics, feed and veterinary care are in readiness to take up this historic journey.

The addition of Asian Elephants to Himeji Central Park - Safari Park is a great opportunity for the people of Japan to visit the park and appreciate the gentle giants for their charisma and intelligence," the release added.

Surya Sen A.V. Deputy Conservator of Forests and Executive Director, Bannerughatta Biological Park, told *The Hindu* that every country has its own management practices and animal welfare guidelines and the Japanese are well advanced and have a different set of practices wherein animals are trained without physical intervention.

This will be the second batch of exchange of elephants to Japan after three elephants were sent to Toyohashi Zoo and Botanical Park, Japan in May 2021 from Mysuru Zoo.

Digital arrest: Man robbed of ₹83 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A gang of four, posing as Mumbai Crime Branch officials, digitally arrested a 78-year-old man for two months, and robbed him of ₹83.2 lakh after threatening to book him in a bank fraud case.

The victim, a resident of Thippasandra HAL 3rd stage, even borrowed money from his friends to pay the gang.

The fraud came to light when the victim went to his native place in Belagavi, and narrated the ordeal to his son, who advised him to report the incident to 1930 before filing a formal complaint with the East Division cybercrime police on Monday.

The victim said that the ordeal began on May 21, when he received a phone call from a person identifying himself as Jyothi Vishwanath from the cybercrime branch of Mumbai. He told the victim that he was involved in a bank fraud case.

The accused allegedly made multiple calls and threatened the victim with dire consequences if he did not provide his bank account access for verification.

The complainant further said that another person posing as a public prosecutor also called, and offered to help and forced him to part with the money. The victim was also reportedly told that he was put under surveillance via Whatsapp video calls, and that he should not contact anyone about this.

The accused allegedly told him that the money would be transferred back to his account once the case was closed.

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Second survey by backward classes commission to begin on Sept. 22

Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes has been told to submit the final report with recommendations before the end of October; it has also been told to study a similar survey conducted by the Telangana government

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The second Socio-Educational Survey (popularly called caste census) by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes will be conducted from September 22 to October 7. The commission has been told to submit the final report with recommendations before the end of October.

The commission has been told to study a similar survey conducted by the Telangana government.

This comes amidst some misgivings expressed by experts over the conduct of a fresh survey of the entire population in a short time frame.

The survey of the 7 crore population of Karnataka will be done by 1.65 lakh enumerators over 15 days. Apart from teachers, employees from various departments of the government would be roped in for the exercise this time.

The second survey comes after the government decided to keep aside the first survey conducted in 2015 by the commission headed by H. Kantharaj, the report of which was submitted by the commission headed by K. Jayaprakash Hegde in 2024. Following pressure from land-owning and politically dominant Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats, the government shied away from accepting the report and implementing its recommendations, but the official reason cited was that the survey is based on decade-old data, and a fresh survey was necessary.

Making preparations: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a preliminary meeting on the Socio-Educational Survey, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The commission has submitted a proposal to the government to conduct the survey. Addressing discrimination of castes is the main focus of the survey, which should become a model for the country," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said after chairing a meeting on Wednesday to discuss modalities of the survey.

The survey, he said, would be the basis for preparation of the next budget, and that the comprehensive survey would include economic conditions, including land and property holdings, of every person in Karnataka. "The commission has been told to submit the report before October-end."

He said that precautions should be taken to prevent any scope for complaints. "Survey work should be transparent, and efforts should be made to ensure that no one is excluded." The commission should start training and other preparatory work, he added.

Use of app

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the survey would be conducted using an app while the previous survey by the Kantharaj Commission was done manually.

"The previous survey had 54 questions for respondents. We will have more questions this time. A technical committee will be set up to finalise the questions. The survey should be scientific and transparent."

He has directed the commission to have a high-power committee to monitor the survey work in Bengaluru where the previous survey lagged due to non-cooperation of people, and lack of manpower, among other reasons.

Order today

Clarifying that it was not a 'caste census' but a socio-educational survey, Backward Classes Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said that the order to start the process will be initiated on Thursday. "Tentatively, the commission has been given three months to complete the survey work. All work related to the survey will commence from Thursday."

Asked if a fortnight was enough to complete the survey, he said: "Teachers would undertake door-to-door survey during Dasara holidays. Technology will also be deployed to complete the survey."

To a question on what happens to the households travelling during the holiday season, he said, "We can cover them using mobile app and technology. They can do it voluntarily. There is also a suggestion to use OTP during the survey, which is being considered."

'Compulsorily register businesses under GST'

Traders require education on GST: FKCCI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chaired a meeting on Wednesday with traders and trade bodies, including the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), on the concerns raised by small-scale traders regarding GST notices issued by the Commercial Taxes Department.

Mr. Siddaramaiah promised traders that the government would not collect GST arrears of the past three years but said they have to compulsorily register their business under the GST.

He said principal goods or food items such as milk, bread, vegetables, coconut, tender coconut, meat, flowers and street vendors selling agricultural commodities are exempted from paying GST.

9,000 notices

The Chief Minister said 9,000 notices were served to traders with a turnover of over ₹40 lakh a year.

Traders demanded the withdrawal of GST notices that were served to them, which were tracked with the help of UPI transactions.

Old tax arrears would not be pursued, provided all such traders register under the GST and start paying the GST in the future, the Chief Minister said.

He said workshops would be conducted to create awareness about GST and department officials would attend the workshops.

Trade union representatives raised concerns about confusion among small traders regarding GST notices, which often include loan amounts and personal transactions.

The government emphasised its commitment to supporting small traders and ensuring lawful business operations. It would provide assistance for timely tax payments, the Chief Minister said. The GST Council chaired by the Union Finance Minister decided taxes, he added.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, Finance and Commercial Taxes Department officials attended the meeting.

Wearing black bands

On Wednesday, some traders and shopkeepers ran their businesses wearing black band, and some of them closed their business opposing the tax on UPI transactions exceeding ₹40 turnover lakh annually.

The Karnataka Karmika Parishat planned to hold a protect on Friday at Freedom Park. The Karnataka State Association of Bakeries, Condiments and Small Enterprises had planned a protest on Thursday.

YouTube channel told to first approach HC

DHARMASTHALA CASE

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to hear a challenge to an "ex-parte" and "sweeping gag order" passed by a Bengaluru civil court restraining media outlets from publishing any defamatory material against Harshendra Kumar D., brother of Dharmasthala pattadhikari D. Veerendra Heggade, in connection with the alleged burials in the temple town.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, when the petition was mentioned orally for an early listing, advised advocate A. Velan, appearing for the YouTube channel, Third Eye, to first approach the High Court of Karnataka.

The petition had sought an interim stay of the civil court order of July 18, which had also directed the media to take down any content already published in connection with the issue.

'Sweeping gag order'

It argued that the civil court "effectively imposed a sweeping gag order and mandatory content deletion on hundreds of media entities nationwide".

"This order, secured through a calculated abuse of judicial process and material misrepresentation by the plaintiffs, directly obstructs a high-level State criminal investigation into allegations of mass burials and serious crimes linked to the influential Dharmasthala temple. It is a frontal assault on the freedom of speech and the Press (Article 19(1)(a)) and the foundational principles of natural justice and due process (Article 21)," the petition said.

20 police personnel posted to SIT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three days after the State government formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of mass burials at Dharmasthala, the Karnataka police chief posted 20 personnel drawn from various units of the Western range to assist the team headed by Pronab Mohanty, along with DIG M.N. Anucheth, DCPs S.K. Soumyalatha and Jitendra Kumar Dayama.

The order also drew the curtains on rumours about Mr. Anucheth and Ms. Soumyalatha excusing themselves from the probe citing personal reasons.

Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem has directed the unit officers concerned to relieve these personnel who are expected to report to Mr. Mohanty.

'State has highest per capita income, thanks to guarantees'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala described Karnataka having the highest per capita income in the country as a result of comprehensive development, especially the implementation of guarantee schemes.

"Karnataka has set a new milestone in economic progress. According to recent data from the Ministry of Finance, the State's per capita income has increased from ₹1,05,697 in 2014-15 to ₹2,04,605 in 2024-25 – a growth of 93.6%," Mr. Surjewala said in a release on Wednesday.

'Fitting reply'

Karnataka's performance far exceeds the national average growth of 57.6%, he noted, called it "a fitting reply to the Opposition's criticism of our guarantee schemes."

Randeep Singh Surjewala

"Including Gruha Lakshmi, the five guarantee schemes – Shakti, Anna Bhagya, Yuva Nidhi, and Gruha Jyothi – have transferred a combined ₹93,000 crore directly to beneficiary accounts so far," he said.

"The increase in per capita income and the positive impact of the schemes are clear indicators that Karnataka is not only becoming economically stronger but is also achieving social justice and equity," he contended.

"The guarantee schemes that are being implemented since 2023 were not introduced for vote-bank politics. They were implemented for all poor people of Karnataka," he said.

Stable growth

He further stated that Karnataka's remarkable economic growth was also powered by the Information Technology (IT) and Biotechnology (BT) sectors. Stable growth in manufacturing, agriculture, and service sectors too had supported the rise in per capita income.

Minister Sharan Prakash Patil and Congress MLC Dinesh Guligowda too, in separate releases, credited the guarantee schemes for the State achieving "a new economic milestone."

Goa Chief Minister's statement in Assembly on Mahadayi project is shocking, says H.K. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil expressed shock over Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant' statement in the Goa Legislative Assembly that Union Minister for Environment and Forests Bhupendra Yadav informed him that the Central government will not approve the Mahadayi project.

Speaking at a press conference here on Wednesday, Mr. Patil condemned the "stepmotherly" treatment meted out to Karnataka by the Centre" and said the latter "is unnecessarily obstructing" the implementation of legally and constitutionally protected projects of the State.

H.K. Patil

The denial of permission to implement the project "is an injustice to the federal system", Mr. Patil said.

Interest of farmers

Keeping in mind the interests of the people and farmers of North Karnataka, the Minister urged the Central government to clear the project immediately. The project aimed at catering to the drinking water needs of Hubballi-Dharwad and other towns in North Karnataka.

> Why hasn't the Union government officially communicated any concerns? Is this how federalism works under BJP? Backdoor sabotage, silence, and betrayal?
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

Goa has been opposing the Union government's decision to accord approval to Karnataka's Kalasa-Banduri projects in the Mahadayi basin. In 2018, the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal adjudicating the inter-State water dispute distributed Mahadayi river waters with 13.42 tmcft to Karnataka, 1.33 tmcft to Maharashtra, and 24 tmcft to Goa. This was notified by the Union government in 2020.

Pramod Sawant

On several occasions, Karnataka has urged the Centre to provide necessary clearance from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), to expedite the execution of the long-pending project, crucial for fulfilling the drinking water needs of North Karnataka. The NBWL held its 77th, 79th, and 80th meetings but has not taken any decision, Mr. Patil said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah described his Goa counterpart's remark on the Mahadayi project as "an insult to the people of Karnataka."

"Why hasn't the Union government officially communicated any concerns? Is this how federalism works under BJP? Backdoor sabotage, silence, and betrayal?" he asked in a statement.

He demanded to know why BJP and JD(S) leaders from Karnataka had chosen not to speak up when "injustice" was being meted out to Kannadigas.

Vedanta is preferred bidder for Janthakal iron ore mine

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

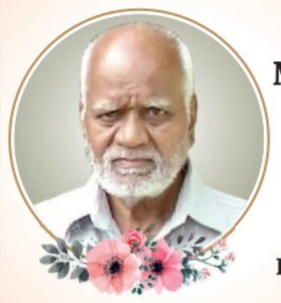
Vedanta Limited, a natural resources and critical minerals company, has been declared as the preferred bidder for the Janthakal iron ore mine in Chitradurga. The company emerged successful in the e-auction process conducted by the Department of State Mines and Geology.

The Janthakal block spans 71.16 hectares and is categorised as a G3 level exploration site, according to a company release.

The award is subject to subsequent approvals, clearances, and fulfilment of conditions laid out in the tender.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



SAD DEMISE

Mr. Kamalakannan

Died: 20.07.2025

Retd Under Secretary
Vidhana Soudha

Principal : Venus Institute of Commerce

In Loving Memory of
Smt. Sheelavathy Karunakaran
12th March 1927 – 22nd July 2025

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the peaceful passing of our beloved mother.

Smt. Sheelavathy Karunakaran,
W/o Late Sri. G. Karunakaran
Southern Railways, Madurai

Mother of:
Dr. K. Uma Devi, Dr. K. Rema Devi, Mr. K. Ravi Kumar

Mother-in-law of:
Mr. N. Vijay, Mr. T. M. Singaravel, Mrs. A. Sreedevi

Grandmother of:
Srihari, Sriram, Mukund, Giridhar, Vidya, Srikumar

Grandmother-in-law of:
Dr. Indra, Radha, Shivani, Dr. Sachin, Dr. Deepali

Great-grandchildren:
Ari, Sankara, Sanjeev, Esha, Pahi, Aryan.

OM SHANTHI

REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

ANURAG (GUNJI)
We miss you Son
- Dad, Mom

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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INBRIEF

Betting app case: ED issues fresh summons to actor Rana

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to actor Rana Daggubati in connection with its investigation into the alleged promotion of illegal online betting platforms. Sources in the ED confirmed that the actor has been asked to appear on August 11, following a request for additional time. He was earlier directed to appear in person on July 23. The ED has summoned several other film and television personalities as part of its probe.

File FIR over funds collected for Ayyappa idol: Kerala HC

The Kerala High Court has directed the police to register an FIR in connection with the alleged collection of funds by a private person for installing an idol of Lord Ayyappa at the Sabarimala temple. A Division Bench of Justice Anil K. Narendran and Justice Muralee Krishna S. issued the directive in a *suo motu* case regarding the alleged fund collection by the chairman of a private hospital in Erode. The court posted the case for hearing in the coming week.

Construction of LuLu mall in Visakhapatnam to begin soon

LuLu International Chairman and Managing Director M.A. Yousuff Ali said at the Investopia-CII meet on Wednesday that the UAE-based multinational business conglomerate would begin the construction of a mega shopping mall in Visakhapatnam soon. The company would also start a food processing plant and a hypermarket in Vijayawada shortly. Similar hypermarkets were planned in other cities in Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Ali said.

VS cremated with full state honours at Martyrs' Memorial

Kerala bids tearful farewell to the ace CPI(M) leader who was laid to rest in Alappuzha, on the very soil that shaped his life and struggles; thousands gathered for the funeral despite downpour

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

As the sun dipped over the Alappuzha coastline on Wednesday evening, the air grew heavy – not just with the weight of monsoon clouds, but with the silent grief of thousands bidding farewell to a leader who had become the conscience of Kerala's Left politics.

V.S. Achuthanandan, the unyielding comrade, was cremated with full state honours at the Punnapra-Vayalar Martyrs' Memorial at Valiya Chudukad at 9.15 p.m., on the very soil that shaped his life and struggles. It is also the final resting place of legendary communist leaders, including P. Krishna Pillai, T.V. Thomas, P.K. Chandranandan, and K.R. Gouri.

His mortal remains reached his home at Paravur around 12.15 p.m., more than 22 hours after the funeral procession began in Thiruvananthapuram. The massive turnout along the route, with people lining the roads from Thiruvananthapuram to Alappuzha, reflected both their deep admiration for his political legacy and a heartfelt farewell to a leader they considered one of their own.

Last salute: Police personnel pay homage to V.S. Achuthanandan at the Municipal Recreation Ground in Alappuzha on Wednesday. PTI

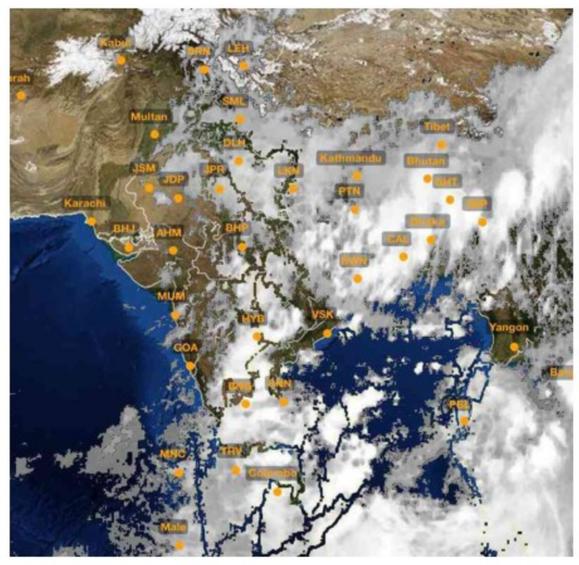
A sea of people had gathered at his house, some waiting since Tuesday evening, to catch a glimpse of him.

The funeral, originally scheduled for 3 p.m., was delayed due to the overwhelming crowd.

Despite the heavy downpour in the evening, thousands continued to pour in at the cremation site. Achuthanandan's wife, Vasumathi, along with other family members, was present at Valiya Chudukad to bid him a final farewell.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3	36.1	27.8	Kozhikode	15	30.2	24.1
Ahmedabad	0.1	34.2	27.5	Kurnool	—	28.4	25.0
Aizawl	26.6	32.8	21.2	Lucknow	—	37.3	28.9
Allahabad	—	36.3	28.0	Madurai	—	37.4	26.6
Bengaluru	0.4	26.4	20.2	Mangaluru	30.4	25.0	22.6
Bhopal	15	29.6	24.4	Mumbai	84.6	27.9	24.2
Bhubaneswar	70	35.5	26.2	Mysuru	—	28.0	20.0
Chandigarh	1	34.8	25.2	New Delhi	14	30.8	25.6
Chennai	—	31.0	27.9	Patna	0.2	37.2	30.2
Coimbatore	1	31.6	22.6	Port Blair	9	30.4	26.3
Dehradun	—	31.1	24.5	Puducherry	1.2	34.9	24.4
Gangtok	22	27.0	19.3	Pune	32.5	27.4	23.4
Goa	105	27.4	23.4	Raipur	32	32.9	25.7
Guwahati	—	37.6	27.5	Ranchi	—	31.8	—
Hubballi	—	25.0	22.0	Shillong	—	26.9	18.5
Hyderabad	14	27.6	22.4	Shimla	10	27.2	20.2
Imphal	—	31.6	27.9	Srinagar	19	24.7	18.9
Jaipur	1	34.1	27.2	Thiruvananthapuram	10	30.0	22.6
Kochi	7	29.0	24.2	Tiruchi	—	36.1	27.0
Kohima	—	24.2	21.0	Vijayawada	26	30.4	25.4
Kolkata	—	36.6	28.2	Visakhapatnam	—	31.8	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	..50	35	 61	73	.....
Bengaluru	.11	..10	32	 66	...117	.....
Chennai	.10	..17	66	 43	60	.....
Delhi	.12	..53	55	 89	...112	.....
Hyderabad	.38	..20	44	 87	93	.....
Kolkata	.11	..73	25	 29	46	.....
Lucknow	.39	..12	11	 93	92	.....
Mumbai	.22	..11	24	 60	58	.....
Pune	..—	..45	83	 26	42	.....
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	24	..... —	.....—	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 185 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SC raps Telangana govt. over tree felling

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday underscored the need of sustainable development, but advised against the use of bulldozers to clear forests in order to achieve it.

A Bench of Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a *suo motu* case over large-scale felling of trees in the Kancha Gachibowli area of Telangana.

"I am myself an advocate for sustainable development, but that doesn't mean that overnight you should employ 30 bulldozers and clear all the jungle," Chief Justice Gavai said.

The top court had earlier said felling of trees *prima facie* appeared to be "pre-planned" and asked the Telangana government to restore the 100 acres of deforested land or its officials could land in jail.

The matter will be now taken up on August 13.

Man, son brutally hacked to death in Bapatla district

The Hindu Bureau
BAPATLA

A man and his son were found brutally hacked to death on Wednesday morning at a real estate venture near Pathamaguluru village in Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh.

The double murder occurred around 11:30 a.m. at the Vishnupura Smart City Real Estate Venture, located on the eastern side of the Kurnool-Guntur State Highway. The crime came to light around 12:30 p.m. when Village Revenue Officer B. Radhika Krishnaveni discovered the bodies and alerted the police.

According to preliminary investigation, unidentified assailants allegedly brought the victims to the site in a car, attacked them with sharp weapons, and fled the scene. The deceased have been identified as K. Veeraswamy Reddy, 62 and his son K.V. Prasanth Reddy, 37, residents of Channasandra, Kadugodi in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Man gets life term for killing visually challenged minor in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

A special court here in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday sentenced a 33-year-old man to life imprisonment for the murder of a 17-year-old visually challenged girl.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Special Court in Guntur also imposed a five-year jail term on the accused, Nagapogu Dayanand Raju, alias Kukkala Raju, under the POCSO Act. Both sentences will run concurrently.

As per the prosecution, on February 12, 2023, the accused attacked the minor girl with a knife in Tadepalli. He held a grudge against her as she had rejected his sexual advances. The girl, who suffered severe injuries, died during treatment on February 13 at the Vijayawada Government Hospital.

The accused was addicted to vices and estranged from his family. He had been living in the area and observing the girl. When her mother left for work, he approached the girl. When she rejected his sexual overtures, he inflicted multiple knife wounds on her. The girl's mother rushed her to hospital, but she died the next day.

DNA analysis

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) J. Prashanthi filed the chargesheet.

Forensic DNA analysis confirmed the victim's blood on the accused's shirt. The prosecution was led by District Deputy Director M.D. Barkath Ali Khan.

Rain shield

A pillion rider tries to protect herself from rain that continued to lash Vijayawada on the fourth day on Wednesday. The India Meteorological Department has given an isolated heavy rain forecast for NTR district on July 24 as well. K.V.S. GIRI

Elderly man duped of ₹35 lakh by 'CBI officials' in Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A 79-year-old resident of Domalguda was duped of ₹35.74 lakh after being allegedly manipulated by callers posing as CBI officials from Mumbai.

The fraudsters implicated him in a fabricated money laundering case and coerced him into transferring his life savings in 10 days.

The incident unfolded on July 6, when the victim received a phone call from a man, posing as a CBI officer calling from Colaba police station in Mumbai. The caller claimed that a bank account registered in the victim's name at Canara Bank's Colaba branch was linked to money laundering operations involving a suspect named Naresh Goel.

To lend credibility, the caller cited a fabricated FIR number and shared forged documents purporting to be SC orders and official CBI warrants.

Over the course of several calls, the victim was systematically intimidated and warned not to disclose the matter to anyone.

The scammers convinced him of a probe being monitored by the apex court and said that his cooperation was necessary to avoid arrest.

Under the pretext of verifying the funds in his account, the fraudsters instructed the victim to transfer his money to bank accounts they provided, with the assurance that the funds would be returned once cleared.

The victim transferred ₹35,74,094 between July 6 and 16.

He was later told that his name had been cleared from the suspect list and asked to collect his money from the nearest crime branch office. It was only then that he realised he had been defrauded, and approached the Cyber Crime police.

Case booked

A case was booked and investigation is currently under way to trace the accounts and identify those behind the calls.

Govt. committed to mobilising MPs' support for enhanced quota to BCs, says Telangana CM

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Taking strong objections to inordinate delays by the Central government to clear the bills providing 42% reservation to backward class communities in education, employment and politics, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the Telangana government is committed to mobilise support from MPs of like-minded parties to mount pressure on the Centre to concede the State's request.

The Chief Minister left for New Delhi on Wednesday to meet the heads of Congress and leaders of the INDIA block seeking their cooperation in convincing the Centre to give its approval for the two Bills passed by the Telangana Legislature enhancing reservation of BCs to 42%.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and other Cabinet ministers addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The delegation led by Mr. Revanth Reddy had decided to call on Opposition leader in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and his counterpart in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge to urge them to raise the issue during the ongoing Monsoon session of the Parliament.

"We will explain the details of the social, economic, education, employment, political and caste survey conducted meticulously by the government in a scientific manner and seek their support," Mr. Revanth Reddy ssaid.

Mr. Revanth Reddy categorically said that the proposed reservation to Muslims was based on their backwardness and not on religious basis.

He dismissed the claims of State BJP leaders including two Union Ministers Bandi Sanjay and G. Kishan Reddy that they would convince the Centre if Muslims were excluded from the Bill.

"The same reservation is implemented in Gujarat, the native State of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and in Uttar Pradesh from where he represents as MP and Maharashtra where the RSS headquarters is located. Let them scrap the reservations in these three States as also in States like Bihar first before asking the Telangana government to exclude Muslims," the Chief Minister said.

He cited Union Home Minister Amit Shah as saying in an interview that Muslim quota was being implemented in Gujarat.

"Will they remove Mr. Amit Shah from the post for his comments?" he asked, adding the BJP leaders were coming up with lame excuses and pretexts to see that a community was excluded altogether from the list.

A.P. is the best bet for investors from UAE, says Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has requested Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy & Tourism, UAE, to explore investment opportunities in A.P., in seaports, logistics, agriculture, shipbuilding, digital technologies, renewable energy and tourism sectors at an investor meet organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Investopia, a UAE-based global investment platform, in Vijayawada on Wednesday.

Mr. Naidu promised all possible support to those coming forward to partner with the state in its development journey. He said the government was committed to giving time-bound clearances to proposals put forth by entrepreneurs.

The State is transitioning from Ease of Doing Business to Speed of Doing Business, said Mr. Naidu.

"The UAE government and entrepreneurs should consider these opportunities. The A.P. government has introduced 15 sector-specific policies and is offering a slew of incentives to those putting their money in the State," he said.

The A.P.-UAE bilateral trade last year was $1.45 billion and there was tremendous scope for increasing it, he said.

Danger of thought

Maharashtra's public security Bill endangers India as an open society

The Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Bill, 2024 follows the disturbing pattern of executive overreach in the name of security. Existing laws are often misused against political opponents and critics of the ruling party, including commentators. Charges are often vague and sweeping, and the process itself becomes the punishment in many of these cases. Given this pattern, the move by Maharashtra's Mahayuti government led by the BJP to create an entire law to criminalise a certain kind of thought portends danger to freedom and democracy. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has said that the new law would only target those who try to undermine the constitutional order, but the possibility – indeed the probability – of its misuse is apparent. The State says that it is seeking to prevent Maoists from brainwashing youth, professionals, and civil servants through front organisations. As in the proposed law, which is now awaiting the assent of the Governor before coming into force, the State government can declare any suspect "organisation" as an "unlawful organisation". Offences under the proposed law include membership of such organisations, fundraising on their behalf, managing or assisting them, and committing unlawful activities.

The Bill's focus is on people and organisations that act as a front for Maoists, and what is unlawful is so broadly defined that anyone can be its target. Among other things, according to the Bill, 'unlawful' is "any action taken by an individual or organization whether by committing an act or by words either spoken or written or by sign or by visible representation or otherwise, which constitute a danger or menace to public order, peace and tranquility". Offences are cognisable and the accused can be arrested without a warrant. Punishment includes jail terms of two years to seven years, along with fines ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh. The State argues that Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha have enacted Public Security Acts and banned 48 Naxal frontal organisations. The Opposition parties offered feeble resistance to the Bill and raised some broad concerns regarding its misuse but it was passed in the Assembly through a voice vote. As an afterthought, the Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) protested on the floor when it was taken up in the Legislative Council. The Bill had gone through a long deliberative process, but as it turns out, all parties appeared to be in agreement, barring the lone CPI (M) MLA who protested against it on the floor of the Assembly. The idea that thought and speech, howsoever unpalatable they might be to the ruling establishment, should be policed poses a grave danger for India as an open society.

Sectarian wounds

Syria under Islamists is at risk of falling into chaotic violence

Last week's violence in southern Syria, which saw the killing of hundreds from the Druze community, was a grave reminder of the country's deep-rooted sectarian tensions, now ruled by a former Sunni jihadist. When the Hayat Tahrir al Sham (HTS), formerly an al-Qaeda affiliate, captured power in Syria in November 2024, its leader Ahmed al Sharaa (who until recently was known as Abu Mohammed al-Jolani) pledged to protect the rights of all communities. But the realities on the ground tell a different story. Syria is approximately 80% Sunni, with minorities including Alawites, Shias, Christians and Druze making up the rest. The ascent of the HTS triggered widespread anxiety among these groups. These fears were only reinforced when violence erupted against the Alawites, the sect of former President Bashar al-Assad, in March in the western coastal region. Hundreds were killed in days long attacks orchestrated by pro-government militias, most of them jihadists. It took only four months before the next atrocity unfolded – this time in Sweida, a Druze heartland in the south. Clashes initially broke out between Druze and local Bedouin members, which prompted Mr. Sharaa to send in security forces. What followed was a massacre.

The sectarian violence escalated into a regional crisis after Israel began bombing Syrian government forces and military infrastructure in Sweida and Damascus. While Israel does have a Druze minority of its own, its claims of humanitarian intervention ring hollow in the context of its ongoing genocidal war on Gaza. Israel has long conducted strikes in Syria – earlier, its targets were Hezbollah and Mr. Assad's troops. Now that the HTS is in power, Tel Aviv does not want a consolidated Syrian military presence near its border. These internal and external pressures have left Mr. Sharaa vulnerable. Syria, which witnessed coups and counter-coups in the 1950s and 1960s, achieved some stability under the secular Baathist rule in the 1970s. When the Baathist regime became a dynastic dictatorship, cracks began to emerge in the political and social consensus that Hafez al-Assad, Bashar's father, had built, to culminate in a devastating civil war. The best chance for Mr. Sharaa to redeem himself and Syria was to rebuild a pluralistic state, with Kurds, Alawites, Christians and Druze enjoying equal rights. Instead, his push to establish a centralised Islamist regime in Damascus has deepened the sectarian wounds. And the HTS's armed jihadists, who go on killing sprees against minority dissenters, are pushing the country towards disintegration. Unless Mr. Sharaa takes urgent steps to rein in his fighters and rebuild a national consensus, Syria risks descending deeper into chaos.

The reality of the changing dimensions of warfare

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Machiavelli believed that in politics, one is guided solely by the harsh realities of political life, *viz.*, a struggle for power and survival. Today, we are at a point in history when old rules that once governed international politics appear to be in terminal decline. Alongside this, the means to achieve dominance are undergoing fundamental changes. To today's power brokers, the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 (that sanctified the construct of a nation state), and the Congress of Vienna in 1814-15 have little or no meaning. For most, new weapons are the be-all and end-all of modern politics.

The year 2025 is also one that celebrates eight decades of seemingly relative peace following the end of the Second World War, though the years in between did see, and had seen, several conflicts, though not on the scale of the Second World War. For many, even more than the defeat and decline of Nazi Germany, it appeared that it was the apparent invincibility of the United States (wielding the mighty atom bomb – two of which were dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in 1945) – that seemed to usher in a new era of peace. Concepts such as a 'rules-based international order' also gained traction at this time.

This was, however, at best an illusion of peace, and more of a 'riddle wrapped in an enigma' than the reality. A succession of wars of a lesser magnitude that continued to occur across the world – beginning with Korea, Vietnam and North Africa, not excluding parts of Europe itself – confirmed this. It reinforced a truth embedded in a seminal piece of advice often given to diplomats based in the United Kingdom, *viz.*, 'do not believe anything anyone tells you unless you have checked it yourself'.

Already by the 1990s, many of the fundamentals that prevailed had begun to be questioned. The end of the Cold War looked more like the beginning of a new era of conflict. Quite a few new conflicts had begun to emerge which had the potential to shatter any illusion that peace was at hand. Alongside this, it was increasingly becoming evident that a new era in global warfare was emerging. Few, however, admitted that the world was about to enter a new era of conflict.

The impact of 9/11

One of the more widely read articles recently harps on the End of Modernity and talks of the current state of the world in some detail. It lists the year 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down, as the beginning of a new era in global politics. For many others, however, it was September 11, 2001, when the Twin Towers in New York were attacked by terrorists, that seemed to usher in a new beginning. Admittedly, the events of 9/11 did begin a new chapter in global affairs, but it was hardly the curtain-raiser, or even indicative, of the fundamental changes about to take place in the future. What 9/11, perhaps, did was to give the U.S. and certain other nations an opportunity to invade other states based on their perception of what was right and wrong. It was not yet obvious, however, whether the basic fundamentals of conflict would undergo any radical change, and the implications it could have for future generations. The evidence for this is only now beginning to unfold. Even so, the catastrophic consequences of the change are yet to be fully understood or comprehended.

> It entails much more than the use of highly sophisticated weaponry; it extends to tactics as well, which India must note

For this, perhaps, one needs to go to the early 1990s, and more specifically to 1991, to the impact which the U.S.-led Operation Desert Storm caused at the time, and also its impact on future wars. It was in effect the first modern-era war which would mark a "dramatic acceleration of warfare and the transformative synthesis of its operative, tactical and strategic elements", and possibly transforming the nature of war and battlefield doctrines itself. It was also, perhaps, the first instance of three-dimensional strikes on a 'preferred' enemy. Even then, it is only very recently that strategists and military planners have become aware of how transformative it was and the impact it would have in the years to come.

Ukraine, West Asia and Operation Sindoor

At the time, the world was only riveted on the unrivalled power, economic, political and military, of the U.S. It has taken the war (since 2022) between Russia and a Ukraine backed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to fundamentally revise the thinking of war planners and get them to realise how the nature of war itself had changed beyond anything seen in the past. The war in Ukraine and in West Asia have propounded many new doctrines that are very different from those seen previously in the annals of warfare. The very nature of war, it would seem, as also the conduct of warfare had changed, or is changing. Today's wars bear little resemblance to what was seen in the past. Automation has become an essential feature of modern conflicts. The extensive use of drones (with several variations such as drones to gather intelligence and conduct precision strikes; drones able to operate semi-autonomously employing image recognition algorithms to identify high-priority targets, together with 'loitering munitions') have altered the nature of warfare beyond recognition.

The India-Pakistan conflict in May 2025 helped provide some glimpses of the fundamental changes seen in modern warfare. Unlike the earlier India-Pakistan conflicts, the conflict this time featured fixed wing and several other kinds of drones, together with 'loitering munitions'. Fighter aircraft were a critical element to ensure air superiority and carry out precision strikes. Also, seen were advanced 'air-to-air missiles', supplemented and complemented with highly accurate GPS-guided and laser-guided bombs. The BrahMos missile was in place and reportedly also used on at least one occasion. Pakistan, for its part, made use of China-supplied PL-15 missiles and also Turkish-supplied Songar drones.

Modern warfare, however, entails much more than the mere use of highly sophisticated weaponry. It extends to tactics as well. Militaries are moving beyond traditional hierarchies, to advanced network-centric warfare. The advent of cyber and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has seen battlefields morph into complex multi-domain conflict zones, involving advanced technologies, AI and cyber warfare methodologies. The use of hypersonic weapons capable of travelling at speeds greater than Mach-5 also adds a further critical dimension to the current arms race and to the new forms of warfare. All told, digital strategies and autonomous systems are tending to make traditional concepts of how battles are won, *viz.*, through use of overwhelming physical force, outdated. Future warfare is increasingly set to become digitally autonomous and interconnected.

India needs to adapt

Hence, the message is loud and clear – and should be to one and all. We are entering a new era of technological warfare. India must adapt rapidly to keep pace with the changes taking place. Incidentally, it also raises questions about India's existing and established military modernisation plans. These may need to be completely revised and revamped. Perhaps the relevance of many existing tenders for certain categories of weapons may require to be reconsidered.

Overall, there is considerable room for a rethink about India's future defence procurement plans. China has already produced, and has in place, huge volumes of indigenously manufactured platforms (fighter jets, the J-10 and the J-20 as well as the fifth generation fighter). China is now poised to produce its sixth generation fighter.

Available information suggests that India is putting its faith in existing indigenous manufacture and continuing to procure more Rafale fighter jets from France. Clearly, the indigenous development and manufacture of missiles and aircraft are way behind schedule.

What is pertinent is that with the emergence of high-altitude, long-endurance, unmanned aerial vehicles that are essential for modern warfare, there is an overwhelming need for India to rethink its defence modernisation plans. Diversification of India's military hardware has become critically important. This does have a direct impact on India's capability to fight future wars, including against Pakistan or China, or worse, a two-front war.

Spare live animals, move to biological models

Ankur Betageri

is Assistant Professor at Bharati College, University of Delhi

As human beings are superior to animals, and as animals instinctively rely on the benevolence, goodwill, and protective nature of man, we must fulfil our obligation to treat our fellow non-human beings with love, kindness, and respect.

The issue of the suffering animals undergo in animal testing laboratories is known and so it is rational that humans must respond by finding solutions which can end the suffering of animals and bring peace to human hearts.

A dimension to an ethical problem

Before animals came to be used in toxicity tests, humans were used in feeding experiments to assess the risk of toxicity in American food supply. The first systematic test of this kind was conducted between 1902 to 1904 on behalf of the United States government to test the toxicity of preservatives such as benzoate, borax, and formaldehyde in food products.

A.L. Tatum, a toxicology researcher of the time, cites the following reason for the shift from human studies to animal studies: "People are rather unpredictable and don't always die when they are supposed to and don't always recover when they should. All in all, we must depend heavily on laboratory experimentation for sound and controllable basic principles." So, while discussing the ethical problem of the use of animals in research, it is wrong to presume that human subjects were always exempt from experimentation and testing. The rationalisation of the culture of moral indifferentism and inhumanity is the problem; once rationalised it can as easily be directed at humans as it is at animals.

> The suffering that animals undergo in testing laboratories is known and it is time researchers adopt viable solutions

There is consensus today that animal testing is not effective in predicting harm to humans. The findings derived from experiments on animals are not always applicable to humans.

The case for a shift

Developments in the field of tissue engineering or regenerative medicine have enabled us to cultivate at least the following anatomical parts: artificial animal muscle, artificial pancreas, artificial bladders, cartilage, bioartificial heart, blood vessels, artificial skin, artificial bone marrow, bioartificial bone and trachea. It would be ethical and kind to conduct experiments wherever possible using these rather than using animals. It is the request of this writer – to scientists, laboratories and research organisations – to consider doing medical, pharmaceutical and other experimentation and testing, wherever possible, on cells, tissues, and organs developed in laboratories. Spare live animals. Conducting experiments on laboratory-grown anatomical parts would also help the development of the nascent field of tissue-engineering or regenerative medicine.

To make the replacement of animals with lab-grown organs a directive principle and an enforceable one, 'Chapter IV: Experimentation on Animals' of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 may be amended to include an article which says: 'Scientists, laboratories and research organisations should consider doing experimentation and testing, wherever possible, on lab-grown anatomical parts and bioartificial models of biological systems of humans and animals rather than on animals'.

Animals cannot be protected merely by changing laws. If the laws which can protect them are inadequate it is because we have not accorded them their real status by recognising them as fellow beings who suffer just like us.

We also need to bring about a change in our values, the scientific procedure in laboratories which makes the use of animals inevitable, and create an awareness about animal suffering. The use of visual models on computers to understand the anatomical parts of animals has helped us do away with the practice of dissecting animals in biology classes and laboratories. We can definitely do away with all kinds of animal dissection for educational purposes and teach our students better anatomy by using 2D radiographic imagery and 3D visual models of the different organs and biological systems.

But, for the purposes of experimentation and safety testing, it would be useful if we make a paradigm shift from animal models to ex-corpus models or artificial biological models. This we can do by coordinating the shift with tissue-engineering organisations which can produce and provide these artificial biological models. The field of regenerative medicine can help with this shift by modelling and replicating the required biochemistry and biological systems of the body outside the body and by producing bioartificial functional models of the organs.

A pledge

Let us make our civilisation more hospitable to life by changing our procedures, practices and laws wherever possible. Let us pledge to conduct experimentation and testing as far as possible on biological substances and learn to recognise the inherent sacredness and dignity of animals.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unceremonious exit

The Vice-President's office, once a symbol of parliamentary balance, is now seen as a new front in partisan conflict. In our constitutional design, neutrality in high offices is not optional but foundational. Yet, this principle has been steadily eroding, perhaps more rapidly of late. Neutrality in constitutional roles ensures institutional trust and continuity. Without it, governance risks becoming a series of political skirmishes fought through institutions meant to rise above them.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Jagdeep Dhankhar's abrupt resignation is a shock. The conspicuous absence of the ceremonial send-off and farewell speeches for him is an unhappy development given his standing as a constitutional authority. As such, parties across the political spectrum should refrain from getting into a political slugfest over his resignation. Instead, they should facilitate the process of the election of the next Vice-President of India.

G. Ramasubramanyam,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Tamil Nadu politics

In an interview in this daily, ('Tamil Nadu' page, July 22), Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who is the AIADMK General Secretary, Leader of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu and also former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, has asserted that his party would return to power and form the government on its own next year. Even though it is the AIADMK's major alliance partner, the BJP is not a strong force. However, there is a strong possibility of its popularity rising in Tamil Nadu on account of its efficient governance at the Centre.

But Mr. Palaniswami's ambition to capture power and rule solely will not be realised unless he takes steps to enlarge the spectrum of his political alliance. Anti-incumbency votes will move to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam headed by actor Vijay and the beneficiary will be the DMK despite its mediocre performance.

K. Chellappan,
Seattle, U.S.

The electoral ties forged between the BJP and the AIADMK do not seem to be working well (Editorial and 'Data Point', both July 23). The AIADMK is finding it hard to convince the people that it will not allow the saffron party to swallow it up. It is a "catch-22 situation" for the AIADMK, as stated in the 'Data Point'. It cannot be seen to be with a party that speaks ill of Tamil Nadu's illustrious leaders. Neither can it sever ties with the BJP for fear of central agencies being unleashed on its leaders. The AIADMK lacks the political heft and the ideological conviction to stand up to the BJP.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Takeaways from the Swachh Survekshan

Akshay Rout

Former Director General, Swachh Bharat Mission. Views are personal

Rankings and celebrations apart, the ninth edition of Swachh Survekshan, branded as the world's largest cleanliness survey, provides policy makers and city managers a reality check on urban sanitation and waste management, and a reliable database. The annual survey steered by Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)-Urban had not only over 4,500 cities competing, compared to less than 100 in 2016, but was also backed by elaborate assessments and third party verification and further bolstered by feedback from 140 million city dwellers. From segregation, collection, transportation, and management of waste to the welfare of sanitation workers and grievance redressal, the 10 parameters of the survey are comprehensive. The survey has emerged as an effective driver of competition and movement in city sanitation. It also provides a measure of the gaps in India's journey towards clean cities.

Different population sizes

The advent of Super Swachh League this year was an overdue twist to break the stalemate at the top of the rankings. Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai – all mascots of cleanliness for a while – entered this new space along with 20 other cities of different population sizes. Members of the League could create new benchmarks and compete among themselves while yielding space to new aspirants to enter clean city ranks. That is how Ahmedabad, Bhopal, and Lucknow could break into the top as India's cleanest cities this time in the million-plus category, with another 12 receiving ranks in their own population segments.

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 appeared focused on faster democratisation of city cleanliness. The expansion of population categories from two to five, starting from cities with a population of less than 20,000 to those with a million-plus population, provided a fairer platform for cities to perform.

Those hitherto lagging are now catching up. Odisha is an example. Bhubaneswar moved up from the 34th to the 9th rank; small towns such as Aska and Chikiti worked their way to the top three clean cities in their categories; and mid-size cities including Rourkela, Cuttack, and Berhampur moved considerably upwards. These trends create hope that cleanliness is not a preserve of only certain States. Cities from the south are yet to make any big mark in the clean city show with Bengaluru being the least inspirational. Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Guntur, and Mysuru were the best in the region. The National Capital Region presents an interesting medley: while the New Delhi Municipal Council areas and Noida ranked best for meticulous sanitation implementation, Delhi, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad improved their ranks irrespective of the negative reports they received in the public domain.

The clean city basket has grown larger since one promising clean city was picked up from each State based on its progress and potential. Once cities are positively stamped, they tend to stay in the aspirational course. Understood this way, the 78 Swachh awards given were not too many.

Setting up the cleanest cities as mentors to the most underperforming ones could help in the proliferation of multiple good practices among urban local bodies (ULBs). While Indore is a veteran in segregating the last gram of waste into six buckets at source – dry, wet, domestic hazardous, plastic, sanitary and e-waste; Surat has been making good revenue by selling sewage-treated water. Pune's waste management is anchored on cooperatives formed by ragpickers. Visakhapatnam made an eco-park from remediated legacy waste site. Lucknow produced an iconic waste wonder park. The Kuberpur area in Agra, once a toxic dumpsite, transformed to 47 acres of green, by engaging bioremediation and biomining technologies.

Tourist destinations and places of high footfall received special emphasis in the survey. Prayagraj was awarded in the category of Ganga towns, and special recognition was extended to the recent Maha Kumbh for its sanitation management. India accounts for less than 1.5% of international tourist arrivals. Cities need to do much more than an occasional cleanliness drive to enhance tourist experience.

The theme this year

The theme of 'reduce, reuse, and recycle (RRR)', advocated by the 2025 survey, carries the prospect of jobs, enterprise, and invigoration of self-help groups. The theme of the last survey was 'waste to wealth'. We are yet to raise the billions of rupees out of waste that is possible. For this, policy needs to better incentivise investors. Waste-to-energy plants are gaining traction but the private sector may be concerned about commercial viability.

Citizens are yet to take meaningful action even though the RRR approach is entrenched in India's ancient traditions. While a universal resentment against open defecation has been achieved by SBM, a behaviour change movement fostering intolerance against waste and fighting against consumerism has been tough to initiate.

As more cities get identified as hubs of growth, we must prioritise the management of 1.5 lakh tonnes of solid waste generated every day. A lot will depend on delivery at decentralised levels, especially by ULBs in enforcing segregation, collection, transport, and processing, including of the more challenging plastic and e-waste.

The business of waste management in cities may look chaotic, but it remains possible. The rise of Surat from being a place of garbage three decades ago to the top place in the sanitation chart last year shows that this is a possibility in all cities in India.

The business of waste management in cities may look chaotic, but it remains possible

Fixing Delhi's air quality crisis

The current electoral mandate can enable States to fix achievable regional targets

STATE OF PLAY

Swagata Dey

July and August are prime months for Delhi to prepare for air pollution episodes in autumn and winter, which are now a defining feature of the National Capital Region (NCR). The electoral mandate this year has created a rare moment of political alignment across most States in the Delhi-NCR, opening the door for coordinated action on air quality.

Delhi's air pollution stems from both local sources and emissions from neighbouring States. To achieve the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, emission reductions across the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP) are essential.

As the sources of air pollution are similar across the larger IGP airshed, the mitigation measures are also similar. These measures are enshrined in most city and State action plans, including scaling up the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to reduce household biomass burning, reducing emissions from freight movements across city boundaries, and using cleaner fuels and installing pollution control devices in industries.

However, implementation has lagged due to fragmented governance structures. For instance, multiple agencies manage Delhi's roads – some under the Delhi government and others under the Centre. This makes coordinated action on road dust (responsible for PM10 emissions) difficult. As a result, while roads in areas such as Lutyens' Delhi are well-maintained, many others remain neglected.

Similar issues persist across States. While the National Clean Air Programme notes

the importance of regulating industrial fuels, not all States have a clearly defined fuel list. Pet coke, a high-emission fuel, is banned only in some States. Age limits for vehicles also differ, allowing older, more polluting vehicles to move freely across borders. Given the transboundary nature of pollution, the gains of one State are often undermined by inaction in another.

The need for regional coordination against transboundary pollution has been acknowledged globally. India is also a signatory to several agreements, including the Stockholm Declaration (1972), the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979, Geneva), the Rio Declaration (1992), and the Malé Declaration for South Asia (1998).

The Malé Declaration, in particular, urges South Asian countries to build a scientific base, formulate regional action plans, and enable joint interventions. However, in India, there is no legal mandate to support such efforts. Although the Supreme Court has routinely stepped in (e.g., by issuing subsidies for crop residue management machinery across States), most policy instruments have failed due to the lack of regional cooperation. For instance, while brick kilns within Delhi-NCR are mandated to shift to zig-zag technology, nearby districts still operate older kilns.

To manage transboundary pollution, India has a promising institutional framework under the Commission for Air Quality Management for National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM). CAQM holds considerable overriding powers for implementing clean air strategies, yet its impact depends on how actively it can align state actions with regional targets.

The current political mandate aligning the Centre and most NCR States (Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana) presents the right opportunity. States can draw from the Malé Declaration's tenets and collaboratively define emission standards and sectoral targets. Under the directive of CAQM and backed by Central funding, region-wide action could scale up mitigation measures.

The entire IGP should be treated as part of a larger airshed. As freight and buses ply freely across State borders, a regional strategy backed by political will is essential. Biomass burning in the residential sector generates more pollution than transport and needs stronger action across the entire airshed. Further, if all line departments issue directives based on a joint mandate from the States, these strategies could be streamlined. While this coordination has historically been challenging, the current electoral mandate can enable the States to promulgate achievable regional targets.

Now is the time to build on the momentum for clean air, not just in Delhi but across the IGP. The decisive mandate of February 2025 could make October 2025 more breathable.

Swagata Dey heads the Air Quality Policy and Outreach group at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy

In Odisha, crimes against women mount as courts and police falter

With a high case load, poor conviction and chargesheeting rates, Odisha's response to crimes against women is inadequate

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

Over the past few months, a slew of heinous crimes against women have been reported from Odisha. On Saturday, a 15-year-old girl was allegedly abducted, assaulted, and set ablaze by miscreants in broad daylight in Puri. She is in a critical condition at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

A week ago, a 20-year-old student from Balasore, who had alleged that her complaints of sexual harassment by a teacher were ignored, died after immolating herself. There was widespread outrage over the college administration's alleged inaction.

In February, a Nepali student died by suicide under similar circumstances in the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology University. The incident led to tensions on campus and forced Nepali students to leave. This caught the attention of the Nepali Prime Minister, triggering a diplomatic crisis.

It is not just that issues of women's safety in Odisha have been in the headlines frequently this year; data show that the State has fared poorly in disposing such cases over the last few years. Odisha registered the fourth highest number of court cases of crimes against women and one of the lowest conviction rates in the country between 2017 and 2022.

Table 1 shows the year-wise chargesheeting rate and conviction rate in cases of crimes against women in Odisha. Between 2017 and 2022, every year, only 10% or a lower share of cases of crimes against women in Odisha's courts resulted in convictions. Each year, at least 20 other States had a better conviction rate than Odisha in cases of crimes against women.

In 2022, only 71.4% cases of crimes against women were chargesheeted by the police in Odisha. The State ranked 24th out of 30 States in this measure that year. The chargesheeting rate was 91.2% in 2017 – the fifth best chargesheeting rate in the country – and rapidly worsened to 71.4% in 2022 and since then as well.

Odisha also continues to feature among the States with the highest rates of crimes against women in the country. In 2022, the State recorded 51 police cases of crimes against women per one lakh population, which was significantly higher than India's overall rate of 33 such cases per one lakh population. **Chart 2** shows the State-wise police case rate of crimes against women in 2022 (police cases per one lakh population) on the vertical axis and the charge-sheeting rate in such cases on the horizontal axis.

In 2022, Odisha was placed fifth in terms of police case rate and 24th in terms of chargesheeting rate, and so features in the left top of the graph. The States in this section of the graph, which include Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Rajasthan, had a higher case rate and lower chargesheeting rate, a double whammy.

In 2022, Odisha was also the State with the second highest rate of cases of crimes against women sent for trial (384 per one lakh population) with only about 9% of these cases ending in convictions **(Chart 3).** Only Delhi with a court case rate of 385 featured above Odisha.

With a high court case rate and a poor conviction rate, the State features on the left top of the graph. The States in this section of the graph, which include West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Assam and Telangana, had a higher case rate and lower conviction rate, a double whammy again.

More than 95% of court cases of crimes against women sent for trial in Odisha until 2022 remained pending **(Chart 4).** The State has one of the highest pendency rates in the country. It ranks just below Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Uttarakhand in this measure.

Crimes up, convictions down

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau's "Crime in India" Reports from 2017 to 2022

Right to safety: Agitators being detained during a protest over the death of a college student in Odisha who set herself on fire after alleging that her complaints of sexual harassment by a teacher were ignored. PTI

Table 1: Year-wise chargesheeting rate and conviction rate in cases of crimes against women in Odisha

Year	Conviction rate (%)	Conviction rate ranking	Chargesheeting rate (%)	Chargesheeting rate ranking
2022	9.2	24	71.4	24
2021	8.3	23	80.1	16
2020	9.2	24	82	14
2019	10	21	80.9	14
2018	8.3	23	82.1	12
2017	7.4	24	91.2	5

Note: In table 1, Odisha was ranked among 30 States. In charts 3 and 4, to calculate the rate of court cases of crimes against women, the total cases pending trial in 2022 and the years before were analysed. In chart 2, only the police cases reported during the year were considered for analysis

Chart 2: State-wise police case rate of crimes against women in 2022 (cases per one lakh people) on the vertical axis and the chargesheeting rate in such cases on the horizontal axis

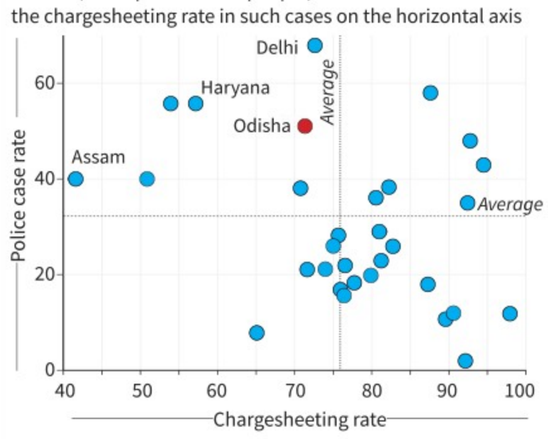


Chart 3: State-wise court case rate of crimes against women as of 2022 (cases per one lakh people) on the vertical axis and the conviction rate in such cases on the horizontal axis

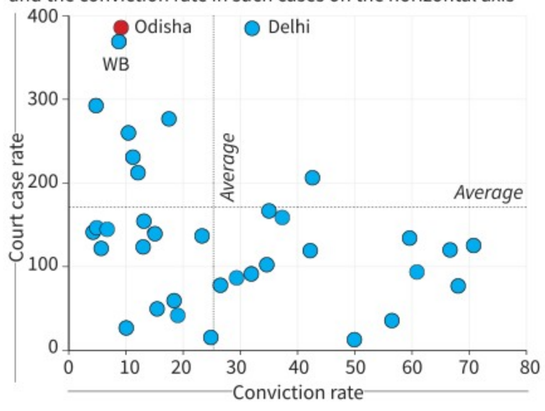
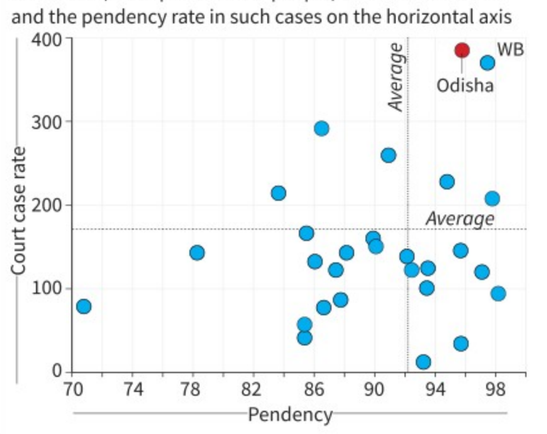


Chart 4: State-wise court case rate of crimes against women as of 2022 (cases per one lakh people) on the vertical axis and the pendency rate in such cases on the horizontal axis



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 24, 1975

Opposition can help to restore normal situation: Minister

New Delhi, July 23: Parliament to-day set its seal of approval on the proclamation of Emergency with the Lok Sabha endorsing it by 336 votes to 59. Three members abstained.

The measure was approved by the Rajya Sabha yesterday at the end of a two-day debate.

In his reply to the 14-hour debate on the subject, the Agriculture Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, said "the restoration of the situation in which the Emergency proclamation would become infructuous depends on the Opposition parties."

He appealed to them to conduct themselves in such a way that even if the Emergency proclamation remained on the statute book, its impact would not be felt.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram said that the proclamation had helped to contain the dangers that were developing. The swift action of the Government had not only frustrated the plans of the Opposition parties but had created a new sense of confidence in the people.

The Opposition, Mr. Jagjivan Ram said, had sought to undermine the authority and prestige of the Government. But the Emergency had helped in restoring its prestige and stabilising its authority. He hoped that the Opposition parties would lend their co-operation in implementing the 20-point economic programme, announced by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram allayed the apprehensions expressed by some members that Emergency powers might be misused by the authorities. The State Governments had been asked to use the powers 'very cautiously' so that their misuse could be avoided.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 24, 1925

India's demand

London, July 24: Dr. Annie Besant was the guest of honour at an "At Home" organised by Major and Mrs. Graham Pole.

Dr. Besant, outlining the purposes of the draft Commonwealth of India Bill, which she had brought to England, said India had a feeling that Britain regarded her as a subject nation. The ambition of all Indians was to enter into partnership with the Mother-Country, somewhat on the lines of the Dominions.

From Page One

15 lakh Bihar voters yet to submit forms, says EC

The poll body said that Bihar electors who are currently temporarily residing outside the State, and have not registered as electors elsewhere, can fill in their form online at https://electors.eci.gov.in or through the ECINet mobile app. They can also take a printout of the form and sign it and send it to their Booth-Level Officer (BLO) through a family member, or fill and sign their printed form and send it to their BLO via WhatsApp.

Electors can also confirm the submission of their forms. The poll body said it has sent SMS confirmation to all such electors whose mobile numbers are provided in their enumeration forms.

CJI agrees to constitute Bench on judge's plea

An in-house inquiry committee of three judges had confirmed that unaccounted-for cash was found in the gutted storeroom at the official residence of Justice Varma after a blaze on March 14-15. Former CJI Khanna had forwarded the report to the Prime Minister and President in May after Justice Varma refused to resign.

The challenge in the top court contended that the in-house inquiry took away the exclusive powers of Parliament under Article 124 and 218 of the Constitution to remove judges through an address supported by a special majority after an inquiry under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

"This Act provides a comprehensive, legislatively sanctioned process with stringent safeguards, including formal charges, cross-examination, and proof beyond reasonable doubt for 'proved misbehaviour'. On the other hand, the in-house procedure, which adopts no such comparable safeguards, usurps parliamentary authority," the petition said.

The petition, filed under an anonymous acronym 'XXX', described the petitioner as an Allahabad High Court judge.

EC begins preparations to elect Vice-President

The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College, which consists of the elected and nominated members of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. Members of the Electoral College can vote according to their individual choice, and are not bound by any party whip.

According to the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, at least 20 electors have to propose the nomination of a candidate, with at least another 20 electors as seconders.

By convention, either the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha is appointed as the Returning Officer, by rotation. Two other senior officers of the Parliament Secretariat are appointed as Assistant Returning Officers.

India resumes issuing visas to Chinese tourists

Responding to a question about the visa issuance on Wednesday, a Chinese MFA spokesperson said that Beijing had taken note of the "positive move".

"Easing cross-border travel is widely beneficial. China will maintain communication and consultation with India to further facilitate travel between the two countries," said spokesperson Guo Jiakun in Beijing.

Both India and China had cancelled all flights and most visa services between them after the COVID-19 pandemic and violence between the two militaries – triggered after China amassed troops at the LAC. China restored visa applications for Indian students in 2022 and for business and tourism purposes subsequently. It issued an estimated 85,000 visas between January and June 2025. India had issued visas in business and student categories, but not for tourism until now. According to the Ministry of Tourism figures in 2019, before the lockdown, more than 3,00,000 Chinese tourists had visited India and about 8,69,000 Indian tourists had gone to China.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Kazan, Russia, last October and agreed to restore ties, a series of high-level meetings discussed the next steps, including the start of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.

In an interview to *The Hindu*, Chinese Ambassaor Xu Feihong had said that resuming the Kailash pilgrimage was "an important initiative taken by China to improve relations between the two countries", indicating that it was India's turn to take the next positive step.

Both sides are also working on resuming direct flights between the two countries soon, understood to be announced before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China for the SCO summit, which is expected on August 31-September 1, officials said.

When asked about the hydropower project being constructed on the Yarlung Sangpo, Mr. Guo said that it was "fully within China's sovereignty". "China is engaged in cooperation with downstream countries on sharing hydrological data, flood prevention and disaster reduction," he said, adding that Beijing has had the "necessary communication" with India and Bangladesh.

India working with U.K. on mix-up of body parts

Govt. trying to 'address concerns' of grieving families of those who died in Air India crash that killed 260 people; claims come to light when PM Modi is on a tour of the country to sign an FTA

Jagriti Chandra
Abhinay Deshpande
NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

DNA matching was done by a team of Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad, where all the bodies were brought, and Gujarat's State FSL. AFP

The Indian government is working closely with authorities in the U.K. to "address concerns" raised by an aviation lawyer about families who received wrongly identified remains of those who died in the June 12 Air India crash.

The British newspaper *Daily Mail* reported that relatives of one victim had to abandon funeral plans after being informed that the coffin contained the body of another passenger. In another case, the "commingled" remains of more than one person killed in the crash were mistakenly placed in the same casket and had to be separated before the burial.

"In the wake of the tragic crash, the concerned authorities had carried out identification of victims as per established protocols and technical requirements. All mortal remains were handled with utmost professionalism and with due regard for the dignity of the deceased. We are continuing to work with the U.K. authorities on addressing any concerns related to the issue," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, posted on X.

The allegations have come to light when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a two-day tour of the U.K. where he is expected to formally sign the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement.

Daily Mail quoted James Healy-Pratt, an aviation lawyer representing many of the British families, saying, "some have got the wrong remains and they are clearly distraught over this. It has been going on for a couple of weeks [and] I think these families deserve an explanation."

The mix-up emerged when the Inner West London coroner Dr. Fiona Wilcox sought to verify the identities of the victims by matching their DNA with samples provided by the families, the *Mail* reported.

The Boeing 787-8 crash killed 260 people; 241 out of the 242 aboard the flight from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick were killed 32 seconds after take-off. These included 181 Indians, 53 Britons, seven Portuguese nationals and one Canadian.

In India, the DNA matching was done by a team of the Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad, where all the bodies were brought, along with a team from the State Forensic Science Laboratory of Gujarat. At the time of handing over the remains of the victims, hospital authorities advised the families that additional body parts might still be recovered from the crash site. They were also reportedly advised not to open the coffins, as many of the bodies were severely burnt, disfigured, or incomplete.

"Families were told not to open the coffins, as several bodies were burnt beyond recognition. The intention was to avoid further emotional trauma," said officials.

On July 8, the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital performed the last rites for body parts of 19 victims that were recovered after the initial remains had already been handed over to the respective families.

Stay of acquittal is 'rarest of rare': CJI on 7/11 case appeal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

CJI B.R. Gavai

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Wednesday briefly remarked that staying a judgment of acquittal in an appeal is a "rarest of rare" option.

The Chief Justice's oral remark came when a lawyer mentioned before his Bench the Maharashtra government's petition challenging a Bombay High Court judgment acquitting all 12 convicts in the 7/11 Mumbai train blasts in 2006.

The mentioning was made in connection with a hitch in the Supreme Court Registry over a translation in the case records. Counsel mentioned the issue moments before the Bench rose for the day.

"Stay of acquittal is rarest of rare," Chief Justice Gavai observed orally.

"Perhaps we will be able to convince Your Lordships that it is rarest of rare," counsel replied.

The CJI had agreed to list the appeal on Thursday when the Solicitor-General, appearing for Maharashtra, had made an oral mentioning on July 22 for an early listing.

The Bombay High Court had concluded that the prosecution "utterly failed" to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt. It had set aside the 2025 judgment of the special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court, which had awarded the death penalty to five, and life imprisonment to seven.

On July 11, 2006, a series of seven bomb blasts ripped through the first class compartments of seven suburban local trains of Mumbai between 6.23 p.m. and 6.29 p.m.

The coordinated explosions led to the tragic loss of 187 lives and left approximately 824 people injured.

HC grants anticipatory bail to Prabir Purkayastha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to *NewsClick* founder and editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha in two separate cases, including one filed by the Delhi Police over alleged foreign funding.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna also extended the relief to Mr. Purkayastha in a money laundering case being investigated by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED).

The court also granted anticipatory bail to *NewsClick* director Pranjal Pandey in a case registered by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

The Delhi Police's First Information Report (FIR) in the case alleged that PPK Newsclick Studio Private Limited received foreign direct investment (FDI) of ₹9.59 crore from Worldwide Media Holdings LLC, U.S., during the financial year 2018-19.

Fewer foreign trips and protocol lapses upset Dhankhar; ex-VP felt he had a diminished role

Suhasini Haidar
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar pays tributes to Iran's late President and other Iranian officials in Tehran in May 2024. PTI

Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, in his 35-month tenure, travelled abroad only four times for bilateral visits, and his office often had complained to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) over protocol issues, official sources told *The Hindu*.

The differences over his MEA assignments were amongst the reasons for the discord between the former Vice-President and the government, and a source of grievance for Mr. Dhankhar, who felt his role, especially on foreign policy issues, was less than that of his predecessors.

According to the MEA's website, Mr. Dhankhar's four visits included two that came shortly after he took over as Vice-President in August 2022, and subsequently the frequency of these visits tapered off. In comparison, his immediate predecessor, M. Venkaiah Naidu, had 13 foreign tours during his tenure between 2017 and 2022, and Hamid Ansari represented India on 28 tours abroad during his decade-long tenure from 2007 to 2017.

Mr. Dhankhar went to Cambodia (November 11-13, 2022), Qatar (November 20-21, 2022), the U.K. (May 5-6, 2023), and Iran (May 2024). He was not scheduled for any tours this year, though sources said the MEA had proposed two visits abroad, in February and in June, which were turned down for health reasons. According to the sources, Mr. Dhankhar had complained to several Opposition leaders about what he saw as protocol violations over the past few months. One point of contention was that the Vice-President believed he received fewer visits from foreign dignitaries than in the past.

Unhappy over Iran visit

The Vice-President's office was reportedly unhappy over his visit to Tehran, where he represented India at the funeral of President Ebrahim Raisi, who had died in a helicopter crash.

The Iranian government's protocol officials were apparently overstretched as more than 40 high-level dignitaries attended the ceremonies, and the sources said Mr. Dhankhar was uneasy with the arrangements at Tehran's Parsian Azadi hotel during his day-long trip.

Mr. Dhankhar's absence from the official banquet during U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance's trip in April this year also raised several eyebrows. On April 21, when Mr. Vance landed in Delhi, Mr. Dhankhar was aboard a flight to Jaipur and returned to the Capital only after Mr. Vance had left. However, officials privy to the exchanges said that the Vice-President's office had not been informed of the programme of the U.S. Vice-President in advance, nor was he included in the programme.

At the time, *The Hindu* had reported that a meeting between the two Vice-Presidents was not scheduled, as officials said it was not mandated by protocol due to differences in the Indian and U.S. government structure.

Sources in the Vice-President's office said that despite the issues and his own health problems, Mr. Dhankhar carried out his diplomatic assignments to the full extent he was required to, pointing out where he felt there were gaps.

On May 19, speaking at an event in Delhi, he referred to a protocol lapse in the reception lineup for Chief Justice B.R. Gavai, and said "I too am a sufferer". He pointed out that his photograph had not been kept in government offices alongside those of the President and Prime Minister, as he said it should have been.

"Once I demit office, I'll ensure that my successor has a photograph," he said, adding that when such complaints were made, they were "not personal, but for the position held".

Home Ministry begins moving out of North Block

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The iconic North Block building at Raisina Hills in Lutyens Delhi will no longer be home to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Ministry has been known by the address for nearly 90 years.

This week, several MHA offices started shifting to the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) building on Janpath as part of the Central Vista redevelopment.

The British-era buildings – North Block and South Block – house key administrative buildings such as the office of the Prime Minister and Ministries of Defence, Home, External Affairs and Finance.

These red-sandstone buildings were built by the British architect Herbert Baker and inaugurated in 1921.

Set to be museum

Once all the offices move out of both the blocks, these will be turned into a museum. Named 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum', it will display an estimated 25,000-30,000 artefacts, and is likely to be one of the largest museums in the world.

On July 17, an order issued by the MHA in Hindi said the process of shifting all offices located at the North Block to CCS-3 had been initiated and nodal authorities designated for the smooth transfer.

As a part of the Central Vista redevelopment, the Centre had proposed a CCS of 10 office buildings and a conference centre on Kartavya Path to accommodate all Ministries.

The red-sandstone buildings of North Block were built by Britisher Herbert Baker and inaugurated in 1921. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The first three of these office buildings are nearly completed.

347 rooms for MHA

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan was among the first to move to the new office complex. The MHA has been allotted 347 rooms in the new complex. According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), "the imperial buildings were unquestionably claimed by the people of India as the seat of the Government of India after Independence," adding that the most important Ministries were housed in the North and South Blocks.

Better coordination

It said that the objective of building CCS is to improve coordination, collaboration and synergy among various organs of the Central government that will boost productivity and obviate the need for unnecessary travel of documents and officials from the offices spread over different parts of the city. This will reduce congestion and pollution as well.

"Shifting all Central Government offices to the CCS buildings will get various Ministries/ departments or their attached/ subordinate offices vacate rented accommodations, which will save around ₹1,000 crore per annum," the MoHUA said.

Plea in SC seeks M.P. Minister's removal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking the removal of Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah for violating his oath of office by making "nauseating" remarks against Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, an Army officer who briefed the media during Operation Sindoor.

The petition filed by Jaya Thakur has sought a writ of *quo warranto* (questioning the right of a person to continue in a particular office). The petition argued that his remarks amounted to a violation of Mr. Shah's oath of office.

Cong. attacks PM for 'silence' over Trump's claims

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After U.S. President Donald Trump repeated his claim – for the 25th time, according to the Congress – that he had stopped the recent conflict between India and Pakistan, the Opposition party leaders questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continued "silence" on the issue.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said there was "something fishy" about Mr. Modi's failure to respond even once to Mr. Trump's repeated claim of facilitating a ceasefire. Party president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Prime Minister "shows weakness" by staying silent.

"Trump keeps saying that he facilitated a ceasefire, but Narendra Modi is silent, not responding. Does Narendra Modi want to be subservient to Trump," Mr. Kharge said.

Mr. Gandhi said: "Trump has said 25 times that 'I got the ceasefire done'. But the Prime Minister has not given a reply even once". The Modi government has "destroyed our foreign policy, no one supported us," he said.

No assurance from govt. on Bihar electoral roll debate

Opposition members seek discussion on the intensive roll revision but no commitment was made during BAC meeting of Upper House; however, decks cleared for discussion on Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In the first meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Rajya Sabha after Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation, it was decided that Operation Sindoor would be discussed for 16 hours in the Upper House, in line with the decision in the Lok Sabha. The discussion will begin in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday (July 29) while the Lok Sabha will start the discussion a day earlier.

However, no concrete assurance was forthcoming from the government on the Opposition's demand for a debate on the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. The meeting was attended by leaders of various parties and Leader of the Upper House J.P. Nadda and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. The BAC meeting was chaired by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

The meeting was held after it was rescheduled four times, prompting a member, according to sources, to say, "If a meeting is postponed one time it is okay, second time it is irritating, third time it is worrying and and a fourth time it is unprecedented." It was also decided that the Opposition will pause their protests on Thursday as several MPs are retiring and will be delivering their farewell speeches.

Plan for debate: Proceedings of the Rajya Sabha under way during the Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday. SANSAD TV/ANI

At this point, an Opposition MP who is also a member of the BAC said that Mr. Dhankhar, who resigned without addressing the House about his decision to quit, should also be given a farewell. Mr. Nadda and Mr. Rijiju reportedly smiled but did not respond.

The Opposition members also demanded that the government allow them to raise issues instead of only focusing on "rushing through legislation". They have been protesting for the past three days demanding a debate on the intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Speaking to presspersons, the Trinamool Congress's Rajya Sabha Parliamentary Party leader Derek O'Brien accused the government of disrupting Parliament. "As usual they will continue disrupting Parliament, which is why they do not want to discuss an issue like SIR, which 15 Opposition parties want to deliberate on," he said.

Elections are being stolen in India, says Rahul as Bihar SIR roils Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav and other INDIA bloc MPs protesting against SIR of Bihar's electoral rolls on Wednesday. ANI

Elections in India are being stolen, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged on Wednesday, as Opposition parties staged protests inside and outside Parliament against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Mr. Gandhi claimed that his party had figured out the *modus operandi* of the "vote theft" by studying a Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka.

He said the Congress party would put before the people and the Election Commission in black and white how the "theft of votes" was being done.

Continuing protests

He made these remarks after Opposition members stalled proceedings in the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha over SIR and held a demonstration on the steps of Parliament, wearing black attire as a mark of protest.

During the ongoing SIR, EC officials have so far found that more than 52 lakh voters were not present at their addresses.

"It is not just about 52 lakh. It is not just about Bihar, they cheated in Maharashtra. We have asked questions to the Election Commission, asked them [EC] to show us the voters' list, they did not show us the voters' list; we asked for videography, they changed the law. One crore new voters had come in Maharashtra and the election was stolen," Mr. Gandhi told presspersons.

The Congress leader said they picked one Lok Sabha constituency after the 2024 general election, took its full voters' list, put it on digital format and did a deep dive. "It took six months but we have uncovered their whole system, how they do it, who votes, and from where new voters are brought. They [EC] understood this and has brought in a new system in Bihar - which is to delete voters. In India, elections are being stolen that is the reality of India," Mr. Gandhi alleged.

The issue resonated inside Parliament as both the Houses witnessed several disruptions before being adjourned for the day.

In the Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla said members waving placards in the well of the House were displaying "street-like behaviour" in Parliament.

USA Cricket battles for its future amid power struggle with ACE

From Page One

USA Cricket's June breach notice charged ACE with several failures. A close examination of the Term Sheet, ACE's July 8 rebuttal, and supporting legal documents reveals the following:

Alleged breaches

Stadium delivery failure: The contract required six ICC-standard stadiums by 2024 (later extended by a year due to COVID-19). Only one (Grand Prairie, Texas) is complete, and ACE has shifted the responsibility of building infrastructure to MLC franchises without USA Cricket's written consent. Section 24 of the Term Sheet states: "Except in the event of a transfer to an affiliate, the Agreement, including USA Cricket's exclusive license for Major and Minor Leagues, is transferable or assignable to another party only with the written consent of USA Cricket."

The Morrisville, Lauderhill, and Oakland stadiums are not owned or exclusively operated by ACE, and it has pushed the completion timelines to 2028, well outside the agreed timeline in the Term Sheet. The Term Sheet states in Section 5.1 that ACE must "make commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that the stadiums will be operational by no later than 2024" and that it must control "all stadium events and activities".

Revenue share dilution: The Term Sheet entitles USA Cricket to 5% of all gross cricket-related revenues. ACE's plan to devolve local sponsorships and media deals to franchises (starting 2027) risks shrinking that pool – and with it, USA Cricket's share.

Unapproved expansion: ACE's push for a Toronto-based franchise and a strategic tie-up with New Zealand Cricket was initiated without USA Cricket's sign-off. The March 2025 ICC sanctioning standards require that when an event is staged in one federation's jurisdiction but played (in whole or part) in another's territory, both national bodies must sign off. USA Cricket says no such approval was sought for ACE's plans outside the U.S.

ACE's response to this is that the events have not occurred yet and that it will comply with the ICC rules, if and when they do.

Player/staff salary shortfall: USA Cricket cited a $606,189 (player and staff payment for a period of July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024) and a $647,603 (January 1, 2025 to June 23, 2025) payment lapse. ACE responded with records showing $1.43 million paid in 2024 to players, coaches, and staff eligible for U.S. national teams.

ACE calculated the payment made based on the MLC Draft salary paid by franchisees to U.S. domestic players according to Term 3.3: "... The amounts, structure and format of the contracts for the players, coaches and support staff will be the sole discretion of ACE, or the JV, as applicable" and 3.4 which states: "All contracts for professional players for the Major League will include the ability for the players to represent the USA National teams, subject to the players' selection for such representation."

USA Cricket has objected to ACE's position that "the entirety of a salary paid to an MLC player can or should be offset against ACE's obligations under the Term Sheet" and has accused ACE of "essentially using USA Cricket to fund its MLC player salaries".

Viewed from an Indian context, ACE's argument would essentially mean Indian Test captain Shubman Gill's annual BCCI central contract of ₹5 crore and his match fees should be offset against his Gujarat Titans IPL salary of ₹16.5 crore.

No High-Performance Centre?: Though promised by 2020, ACE maintains that the Grand Prairie venue currently serves that role. However, sources within USA Cricket say that the stadium does not meet the definition or minimum infrastructure standards of a fully operational High-Performance Centre, and that it was not developed in genuine consultation with USA Cricket, despite claims to the contrary.

No Minor League Cricket (MiLC) in 2025: The Term Sheet allows ACE to run Minor League Cricket but does not mandate it annually. So far, the League has seen four seasons since 2021. And while USA Cricket acknowledges that the Term Sheet includes the launch of MiLC, "it feels the spirit and intent of the agreement clearly require the sustainable and continuous operation of developmental competitions". ACE is yet to announce dates for the MiLC 2025 calendar.

USAC's finances

The financial squeeze behind the confrontation is visible on the balance sheet. USA Cricket ended 2023 with just $52,533 in cash against $615,110 in current liabilities. Receivables swelled to $505,689, and disclosures show $439,000 of that tied to ACE.

When the governing body's short-term survival depends on collecting from the same private partner it accuses of breach, leverage runs one way. The audit also reports continuing negative operating cash flow, reinforcing how quickly funding gaps can become existential.

USA Cricket also disclosed that 48% of its 2023 contributions came from the ICC and 12% from ACE, underscoring how concentrated that lifeline is.

Conflict of interest

Internal emails also reveal that Paraag Marathe, the USA Cricket Chairman between 2018 and 2022, held a consulting agreement with Times Internet (UK) – a key ACE backer and Willow TV (the only 24x7 live cricket channel in the USA and the official broadcaster for MLC) owner – while the Term Sheet was being finalised in 2019. He reportedly disclosed it only in late 2021.

The letter from the USA Cricket counsel states: "Under this agreement, Mr. Marathe is to provide general consulting services to Times Internet (UK) Limited related to (1) sponsorship opportunities in the mainstream U.S. sports

USA Cricket CEO Johnathan Atkeison (left) and Chairman Venu Pisike receive an award from ICC Chairman Jay Shah at the recently concluded AGM in Singapore. ICC

advertising space, (2) growing Times Internet (UK) Limited's business, and (3) media rights and distribution opportunities for Willow TV. Although the financial terms of this agreement and the agreement with ACE are redacted, Mr. Marathe informs me that the financial payment from the Times Internet (UK) Limited agreement is approximately 5% of the payments owed under the ACE agreement."

Marathe is no minor player in the U.S. sports world. He serves as President of 49ers Enterprises and Executive Vice-President of Football Operations for the San Francisco 49ers, and chairs Leeds United in England.

In a communication between USA Cricket and its attorney, which this publication has seen, legal counsel warned in 2021 that while the arrangement might not technically breach USA Cricket policy, it created a strong perception problem and urged Marathe to recuse himself from decisions involving Times Internet (UK).

In a legal advisory to USA Cricket, board counsel wrote: "Although I don't believe that the agreement causes Mr. Marathe to have a direct conflict of interest under USA Cricket's Conflict of Interest Policy, there is still a need under the policy to avoid the perception of, or potential for, a conflict.

"Therefore... my advice would be: Mr. Marathe should excuse himself from any formal or informal discussions related to the relationship between USA Cricket and Times Internet (UK) Limited and/or Willow TV, and should take no part in any discussion or vote... If there is any question or dispute... the CEO of USA Cricket should determine whether Mr. Marathe should be excused..."

The Term Sheet, drawn up when Marathe was Chairman of USA Cricket, vests ACE with extraordinary power.

While this model helped fast-track professional cricket in the U.S., it also left USA Cricket heavily reliant on one private partner, with limited audit rights and few enforcement mechanisms if disputes arise. That dependency has amplified the pressure on USA Cricket to strengthen its governance framework. Under the revised constitution, updated in line with U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) guidelines, the board has expanded from 10 to 12 directors, with two additional seats allocated to player representatives – increasing their total to four.

The last elections were held in a staggered manner – independent directors in February 2024, player directors as far back as August 2022, and membership directors in July 2023.

As per the official USA Cricket website, the board currently has 10 seats, with three vacant. Both player directors – Nadia T. Gruny and Srini Salver – have terms that ended in 2024, while Chairman Venu Pisike's term runs until December 31, 2025.

To be part of the Olympic system, USA Cricket must also meet the USOPC standards: independent governance, enforceable conflict of interest rules, financial transparency, and a board in which "athlete representatives will equal at least 33.3% of all NGB boards of directors, executive boards, and other governing boards".

Just before the ICC AGM, an ESPNcricinfo report suggested that the ICC had proposed a full resignation of the USA Cricket board as part of the road map for Olympic certification. However, the majority of board members have declined to resign, stating that it was only one of the three options suggested by the USOPC.

In March this year, three former directors – Patricia Whittaker, Kuljit Singh Nijjar, and Arjun Rao Gona – removed from the board in December 2024, joined current director Atul Rai in suing the organisation and six sitting directors individually, alleging wrongful termination, governance lapses, and retaliation.

Can USA Cricket still govern the sport? Without independent control, strong audit rights, or leverage over its own revenues, USA Cricket risks failing its core mandate. The consequences go beyond league disputes – the board's very legitimacy, and its Olympic future, may hang in the balance.

Olympic stakes

Cricket's inclusion at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics gives this dispute regulatory teeth. In 2023, cricket was among five new sports approved for the LA28 programme by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), driven in part by the vast audience the game commands in the Indian subcontinent. As host, the United States is expected to field both men's and women's teams in a six-team medal competition.

But the structure of USA Cricket's deal with ACE risks putting it in violation of several governance standards laid out by the USOPC, the ICC, and the Ted Stevens Act – the U.S. law that defines the framework for NGBs and their relationship with the USOPC.

Autonomy undermined

Section 220522.5 of the Ted Stevens Act demands that an NGB "demonstrates that it is autonomous in the governance of its sport, except with respect to the oversight of the organisation, in that it – (A) independently decides and controls all matters central to governance; (B) does not delegate decision-making and control of matters central to governance; and (C) is free from outside restraint." But USA Cricket's core operations – funding, league structure, infrastructure, scheduling – are controlled by ACE as per the Term Sheet (Sections 3, 4, 5, 22). USA Cricket's own audited financials show dependency on ACE advances to stay afloat – a breach of both spirit and letter.

Code of conduct

Under 8.4.1 (a) (vi, vii) of the USOPC Bylaws, an NGB must "adopt and enforce a code of conduct for its employees, members, board of directors, and officers, including clear conflicts of interest principles, and adopt and enforce ethics policies and procedures".

USA Cricket's legal counsel at that time acknowledged that then-chair Marathe had a concurrent consulting contract with Times Internet (UK).

USA Cricket and Marathe's failure to disclose the above fact or recuse Marathe during the 2019 deal-making phase violates the "enforceability" requirement of the USOPC.

No interference rule

According to article 2.4, clause D of the ICC Memorandum & Articles of Association, each member must at all times "manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government (or other public or quasi-public body) interference in its governance, regulation and/or administration of Cricket in its Cricket Playing Country (including in operational matters, in the selection and management of teams, and in the appointment of coaches or support personnel)".

Given that ACE controls the MLC and MiLC structure, funds national team salaries and venues, owns revenue-generating rights, and can withhold payments based on its sole discretion, the ICC could classify ACE's position as private interference, potentially triggering a review or suspension, especially with Olympic certification on the line.

The ICC penalises boards that fail to maintain autonomy, usually due to government interference. Sri Lanka (2023), Zimbabwe (2019), and Nepal (2016) were all suspended for state control but reinstated after reforms. USA Cricket's situation is unusual – its autonomy is threatened by private overreach from a long-term commercial partner, not government meddling. Yet the principle remains: if independence is compromised, the ICC's concern should focus on the loss of control itself, regardless of whether the influence comes from the state or private entities.

The ICC has begun taking steps to "reset" and overhaul the leadership and governance structures of USA Cricket, following concerns raised by the USOPC about whether it meets the independence and athlete-representation standards required for Olympic recognition.

As host, the U.S. national team is guaranteed a place at the Games. But the real question is: when cricket takes the stage under the Olympic flame, who will be calling the shots – USA Cricket, or someone else nominated by the USOPC?

Response from ACE

Sportstar reached out to ACE with questions related to the structural governance issues, including operational transparency in the USA Cricket-ACE partnership and conflict of interest. In response, ACE stated: "The questions you have raised reflect a fundamental misunderstanding of the Term Sheet and the relationship between USAC and ACE, and are both inaccurate and misleading." "We are unable to comment further, as the Term Sheet is confidential and both parties are bound by strict confidentiality obligations," it added.

(With inputs from Santadeep Dey and Dhruva Prasad)

INBRIEF

Four killed as car hits group of kanwariyas in M.P.

Four kanwariyas were killed and two injured in the early hours of Wednesday after a car mowed them down in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh, the police said. According to the police, the incident took place around 1.30 a.m. on the Shivpuri link road of the Agra-Mumbai National Highway. Gwalior Superintendent of Police Dharmvir Singh told *The Hindu* that a total of five men were travelling in the car and two of them had been taken into custody. "The search is on for others while we are investigating who among them was driving through CCTV footage analysis. We will also get their blood tests done to check if they were drunk at the time," Mr. Singh said, adding that it was a rented car.

'India-U.K. FTA to have serious impact on domestic industry'

The Congress on Wednesday said an India-U.K. free trade agreement (FTA), likely to be signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Britain, will have a serious impact on India's industry. In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said, one of the most significant impacts may be on the micro, small, and medium enterprises, the backbone of India's economy and the largest employers of workers. He said that for the past 11 years of the Modi government, the sector has faced neglect. "Automobile manufacturers will similarly be impacted, as will the pharmaceutical industry," Mr. Ramesh added.

World Food India event to begin on September 25

The Centre wants to ensure that at least one food item produced in India reaches the dining tables of every home in the world, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan said on Wednesday, adding that the World Food India event will be a step towards this goal. The fourth edition, being held from September 25 to 28 at Delhi's Pragati Maidan, is organised to showcase the developments in the food processing sector. Mr. Paswan said that this is set to be the largest edition yet, with participation expected from over 90 countries, more than 2,000 exhibitors, and tens of thousands of stakeholders spanning the entire food value chain from farm to fork.

India and Nepal finalise Mutual Legal Assistance pact

India and Nepal are working on a revised extradition treaty and have finalised the text of the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement on Wednesday. The deliberations took place at the Home Secretary-level talks between the two countries. "Their deliberations included issues related to the repair and maintenance of boundary pillars, trans-border criminal activities, working of Border District Coordination Committees,... and ways to strengthen cooperation in disaster risk reduction and management," the MHA said.

PM begins visit to U.K.; trade deal set to be inked today

U.K. says deal will boost trade by £25.5 billion each year; Modi will meet Keir Starmer and King Charles III, two sides will hold talks on technology, investment, climate, defence, trade, migration

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the U.K. on Wednesday evening, kicking off the first leg of his two-nation tour, as India and the U.K. prepare to sign a "free trade" agreement (FTA) on Thursday.

During the visit, Mr. Modi and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer are expected to review ties, with the sides discussing technology, investment, climate, defence, trade, and migration. Mr. Modi is also scheduled to meet Britain's monarch, King Charles III.

"The leaders will unveil their vision for a modern, reinvigorated partnership over the next decade - The UK-India Vision 2035," a U.K. government statement said. This newly packaged and extended framework appears to have replaced the '2030 Roadmap' announced by India and the U.K. in 2021, during former (Conservative) U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's tenure.

The Prime Minister's visit is fleeting – less than 24 hours long – with Mr. Modi set to fly to the Maldives on Thursday evening to celebrate the country's 60th anniversary of Independence from Britain and the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between New Delhi and Male.

Gearing up: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets as he emplanes for London, in New Delhi. PTI

"During my meeting with Prime Minister Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer, we will have the opportunity to further enhance our economic partnership, aimed at fostering prosperity, growth and jobs creation in both countries. I also look forward to calling on His Majesty King Charles III during the visit," Mr. Modi said in a pre-departure statement. The so-called 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' with the U.K. had made "significant progress" in recent years, Mr. Modi said.

The meeting comes exactly a year since the two countries signed a technology cooperation framework – the Technology and Security Initiative. A new bilateral investment treaty is also currently under discussion and a defence industrial cooperation framework was announced earlier this year.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is accompanying Mr. Modi, and his British counterpart, Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, will sign the trade agreement on behalf of the two governments.

The deal would boost trade between the two countries by £25.5 billion each year, a U.K. government statement said.

Indian consumers would have greater access to various British products "from soft drinks and cosmetics to cars and medical devices", the U.K. statement said, citing a drop in average tariff rates from 15% to 3%. The statement also said the U.K. clean energy sector would have "unprecedented" access to India's procurement market and U.K. financial services would be treated on a par with domestic firms in India, specifically in the insurance sector.

"Our landmark trade deal with India is a major win for Britain," Mr. Starmer said in a statement. "It will create thousands of British jobs across the U.K., unlock new opportunities for businesses and drive growth in every corner of the country, delivering on our Plan for Change," he added.

Sports Bill in Lok Sabha; one Board to oversee federations

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Mansukh Mandaviya

The National Sports Governance Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday proposes to institute a Board with sweeping powers to lay down rules and oversee the functioning of federations, including the cash-rich Board of Control of Cricket in India.

The proposed National Sports Board (NSB) will create a stringent system for accountability. All National Sports Federations (NSFs) will have to attain its recognition for access to Union government funds.

Another striking feature is the proposal for a National Sports Tribunal, which will have the powers of a civil court and decide disputes ranging from selection to election involving federations and athletes. Once instituted, the tribunal's decisions can only be challenged in the Supreme Court.

The Bill makes some concessions on the issue of age cap for administrators by allowing those in the age bracket of 70 to 75 to contest elections if the international bodies' statutes and bylaws allow for it.

"...as a part of the preparatory activities for the bidding of Summer Olympic Games 2036, it is imperative that the sports governance landscape undergoes a positive transformation to bring better outcomes, sporting excellence and aid in improved performance in major international competitions," reads the Bill's statement of objectives. All recognised national sports bodies would also come within the ambit of the Right to Information Act, something that the BCCI has vehemently opposed.

"Now we have to study the Bill, and we will have to see if we need to place it before the committee (Apex Council). We can only comment after that," BCCI vice-president and Rajya Sabha member Rajeev Shukla said.

Fraud vitiates proceedings, SC recalls 2022 ruling

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday recalled its three-year-old judgment in a land dispute case after discovering that the litigant had suppressed material facts. The court observed that justice and fraud could not coexist.

"Fraud and justice cannot dwell together, the legislature never intends to guard fraud, the question of limitation to exercise power does not arise, if fraud is proved, and even finality of litigation cannot be pressed into service to absurd limits when a fraud is unravelled," Justice Dipankar Datta, who authored the 85-page judgment, observed.

The court declared its May 2022 judgment in the matter to be a nullity, concluding that fraud had vitiated the entire legal proceedings.

Fake embassy busted in Ghaziabad, man who posed as diplomat held

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh Police on Wednesday said it unearthed a fake embassy operating in Ghaziabad and arrested a man who ran the "consulate" while claiming to be a diplomat of the non-existent "West Arctica".

The arrested man, Harsh Vardhan Jain, a resident of Kavi Nagar in Ghaziabad, was taken into custody after a late-night raid on the premises on Tuesday.

Preliminary investigation suggests that the accused, aged 48, was engaged in brokering deals by falsely promising job placements for agencies and individuals in foreign countries.

Fictional countries

He was running the bogus embassy from a rented house and had projected himself as a "Consul" or "Ambassador" of non-existent countries such as West Arctica, Saborga, Poulvia, and Lodonia, and had used vehicles with fake diplomatic number plates, an official statement said.

Luxury cars bearing fake diplomatic number plates parked outside a rented residential building in Ghaziabad from where a bogus embassy was being run by the accused, Harsh Vardhan Jain. ANI

"It has been found that the accused had associations with Chandraswami [self-styled godman] and Adnan Khashoggi [arms dealer] in the past. In 2011, Jain was booked in a case related to the recovery of an illegal satellite phone. Following the arrest now, four cars bearing fake diplomatic number plates, 12 forged diplomatic passports of the so-called micronations, foreign currency, documents related to multiple companies, fake documents stamped with the seal of the Ministry of External Affairs, two forged PAN cards, 34 rubber stamps of various countries and companies, two fake press cards, ₹44.7 lakh in cash and 18 fake diplomatic number plates have been recovered," the official statement said.

A first information report (FIR) has been lodged at the Kavi Nagar police station and an investigation is under way, the STF statement said.

Technology must not impact jobs, says RSS chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday said the main challenge for the country at present revolved around how to integrate the labour, industrial and national interest in the age of technological transformation. He also called for an assessment of the impact of emerging technologies on society and the labour market in a way that did not impact jobs.

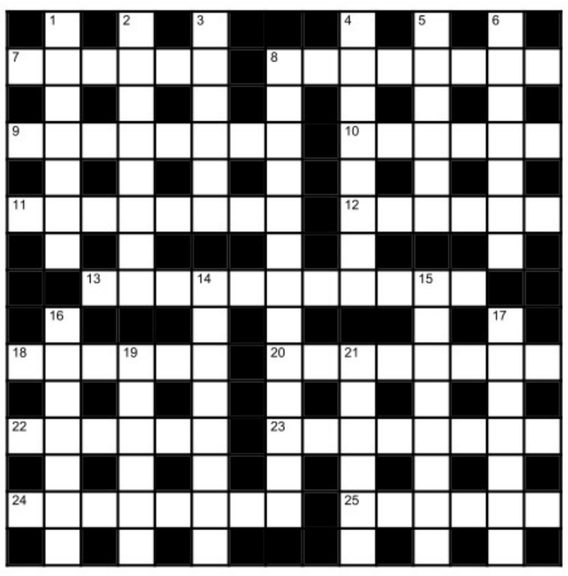
Speaking at an event on the 70th anniversary of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, he said: "Technological transformation is another challenge. Every new technology brings concerns... Knowledge-based technology needs to be thought about with a new perspective, that is, its impact on the field. It can devalue the prestige of *shram* (labour)."

TH CROSSWORD + 14545

(set by Pixie Dust)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Knight overwhelmed by cad's feelings (6)
8 Conservative girl provided YMCA's file (8)
9 Hot nurse's oddly meridional (8)
10 Caught an idle broadcast (6)
11 From the beginning the English Rose Resort in Faridabad inspired contentment - it's fabulous! (8)
12 Some have to escape embargos (6)
13 Spooner mentions 'Bride's tresses' say, in varieties of occupations? (5,2,4)
18 Empty container inside tub (6)
20 Extremely long ground used in second test (8)
22 Letters from Josiahs in uppercase held back, correct? (6)
23 Puffy's old flame, passionate at first and extremely enamoured (8)
24 Struggle with new flickering sign in alerts (8)
25 Slimmer red tie, perhaps (6)

Down

1 Criminal prepared a meal holding recipe (7)
2 So these bugs made a mess of aerobatics? (8)
3 Jerks cycling around elevated railway is the very thing (6)
4 Four involved in wanton celebration (8)
5 Top model was ultimately knocked over, right? (1-5)
6 How deer could be presented? (7)
8 Potentially use coin over and over again for mental activity? (13)
14 Annoyingly the sink has a bit of crack where dishes are kept? (8)
15 Engaged men, say, without any essential resources (8)
16 Brown returns to the mountains, it's to be expected! (7)
17 Rip Van Winkle, for one, sold even poetry every now and then (7)
19 A mortgage scheme basically for foreigners (6)
21 Attacks implicating political leader led to outpouring (6)

SUDOKU

				6			4	
					2	1		7
	5					6		3
2	7		8					
			9		3			
					6		5	2
8		2					7	
1		9	7					
	4			3				

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

P	E	B			S	A	T	I
R	I	F	L	E	S	C	H	I
O	F	T	R	U	L	I	T	
V	I	O	L	A	T	I	O	N
I	R			C		G	N	R
N	O	T	E	B	O	O	K	S
C			L	C	U	T	L	
E	P	I	T	A	P	H	F	L
	N	C	E	F	R			U
S	H	A	R	K	T	H	R	E
E	H	M			A		C	D
S	A	U	N	A	M	A	G	N
A	R	I	A	E	M	L	N	
M	U	R	A	L	I	S	T	
E	Y	S	T		S	R	Y	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	9	2	7	6	5	8	3	1
7	1	5	4	8	3	9	2	6
3	8	6	1	2	9	7	4	5
8	4	9	2	7	6	5	1	3
6	5	1	3	9	8	2	7	4
2	3	7	5	4	1	6	8	9
1	6	3	8	5	2	4	9	7
9	2	4	6	1	7	3	5	8
5	7	8	9	3	4	1	6	2

FAITH

Rama's humility

Raghuveera Gadyam - the very title of Vedanta Desika's work in praise of Rama tells us that Rama was a *veera*. He was known for His valorous deeds. But in this work, Desika also says Rama sought refuge in Sugreeva, elaborated T.N. Aravamuda Thathachariar in a discourse. Desika praises this surrender of the Lord.

Rama was the Supreme One incarnate, and therefore, was capable of granting *moksha*. Then why should He seek refuge in a mere monkey? It was Desika's intention to highlight Rama's *saulabhya* (accessibility), and he does so by showing that even if it was a monkey, Rama was kind to him and made him feel that his service to Rama was important. *Raghuveera Gadyam* follows Valmiki's *Ramayana*, canto by canto, in praising the auspicious qualities evident in each canto. Desika uses the word "Saranagataha", while describing Rama's approach to Sugreeva.

So where is the source of this idea of Rama's surrender to Sugreeva? It is there in canto seven of Kishkinda Kaanda in Valmiki *Ramayana*. Rama, appreciating Sugreeva's offer of help, says that Sugreeva's effort is going to be significant in the search for Sita. Consoling Rama, Sugreeva says that weeping is of no use, and that He should stop crying over Sita, who will definitely be rescued. Rama replies that He is grateful for Sugreeva's advice.

The episode shows the Lord humbling Himself before the monkey king. He does not need Sugreeva's advice, but lends him a patient hearing. For someone who acts independently, and needs no one's help for anything, His manner towards Sugreeva is a rare quality indeed. Hence Desika praises this quality of the Lord.

INBRIEF

Natco to buy stake in South African firm for ₹2,000 crore

Natco Pharma has made an offer to acquire nearly 36% stake in South African pharmaceutical company Adcock Ingram Holdings (AIHL) for $226 million (around ₹2,000 crore). The proposal to acquire the stake from minority shareholders in an all cash deal is a strategic investment aimed at to expanding geographic footprint in South Africa, Natco said on Wednesday. Natco shares closed 2.01% higher at ₹1,034.75 apiece on the BSE on Wednesday.

SC dismisses KAL Airways, Maran pleas in SpiceJet case

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed special leave petitions filed by KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran, seeking damages of over ₹1,300 crore from SpiceJet in a long-standing share transfer dispute. A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and A.S. Chandurkar upheld the Delhi HC's order of May 23.The High Court had in the order, criticised the former promoters of SpiceJet for taking a "calculated gamble" by delaying the filing and re-filing of their appeals.

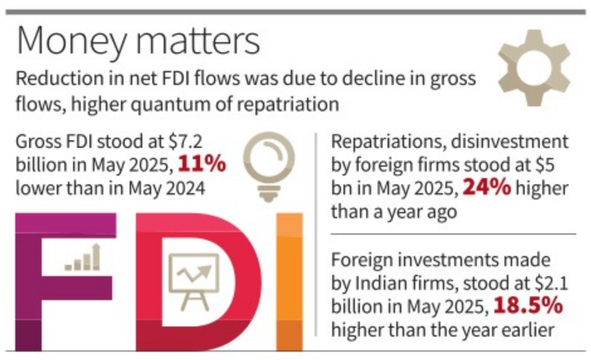
Dr. Reddy's Q1 net inches up as revenue from U.S. declines

Generic drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories' consolidated net profit for the June quarter increased marginally to ₹1,409.9 crore from ₹1,392.4 crore a year earlier as revenue from the all important U.S. market declined amid increased price erosion in certain key products. Net profit came on a more than 11% increase in total revenue from operations to ₹8,572.1 crore (₹7,696.1 crore), the results prepared as per Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) showed.

Net FDI dives 98% on lower gross inflows, higher repatriation

Inflows stood at $35 million in May 2025 compared with $2.2 billion in May 2024 and 99% lower than the $3.9 billion in April 2025

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI


Money matters
Reduction in net FDI flows was due to decline in gross flows, higher quantum of repatriation
Gross FDI stood at $7.2 billion in May 2025, 11% lower than in May 2024
FDI
Repatriations, disinvestment by foreign firms stood at $5 bn in May 2025, 24% higher than a year ago
Foreign investments made by Indian firms, stood at $2.1 billion in May 2025, 18.5% higher than the year earlier

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows stood at $35 million in May 2025, 98% lower than the $2.2 billion seen in May 2024 and 99% lower than the $3.9 billion in April 2025, according to new data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday.

Net FDI is the gross amount coming into India minus the money sent abroad by foreign companies operating in India (through repatriation or disinvestment) and the investments abroad made by Indian companies (outward FDI).

The reason behind this reduction in net FDI flows was not only that gross FDI flows were lower in May 2025 than in both May 2024 and April 2025, but also because the quantum of repatriation was higher.

According to the data, the gross FDI coming into India stood at $7.2 billion in May 2025, down 18% from the $8.7 billion in April 2025, and 11% lower than in May 2024. Simultaneously, the level of money sent out of the country by foreign companies operating here increased in May. Repatriations and disinvestment by foreign companies stood at $5 billion in May 2025, more than 200% higher than in April 2025 and nearly 24% higher than in May last year.

Foreign investments made by Indian companies, at $2.1 billion in May 2025, were 34% lower than in April but 18.5% higher than in May last year.

'Tariff uncertainties posing headwinds to economic prospects'

The evolving pattern of global trade flows and supply chains are far from settled, the RBI bulletin said

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Multiple uncertainties emanating from the high tariffs to be imposed by the Trump administration in the U.S. poses considerable headwinds to global economic prospects, while underpricing of macroeconomic risk by financial markets remains a concern, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials have said in the July edition of the RBI Bulletin released on Wednesday.

And amidst rising trade uncertainties and geo economic fragmentation, India has an opportunity to deepen its integration with global value chains by building more resilient trade partnerships, they said. "As intense negotiations are underway for closing trade deals before the new import tariff rates kick in from August 1, 2025, the focus is back on U.S. trade policies and their spillover effects globally. Financial markets, however, seem to have taken trade policy uncertainties in their stride, possibly reflecting optimism on reaching trade deals that are less disruptive to the global economy," the offiicials said in the article 'State of the Economy'.

"Even so, underpricing of macroeconomic risk by financial markets remains a concern. The average trade tariff rates are set to touch levels unseen since the 1930s. Moreover, risk of imposition of new high tariffs looms large for additional sectors," they wrote.

Stating that the evolving pattern of global trade flows and supply chains were far from settled, they said,"These uncertainties pose considerable headwinds to global economic prospects."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,727	0.66
US Dollar	86.41	-0.03
Gold	1,01,020	0.99
Brent oil	68.13	-0.10

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2614.50	26.70
Adani Ports	1420.80	0.10
Apollo Hosp	7373.50	127.00
Asian Paints	2375.40	10.20
Axis Bank	1104.80	6.80
Bajaj Auto	8397.00	102.00
Bajaj Finserv	2060.50	20.90
Bajaj Finance	968.30	15.75
Bharat Elec	400.20	-2.90
Bharti Airtel	1943.80	37.00
Cipla	1473.50	9.10
Coal India	390.75	1.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1247.40	7.40
Eicher Motors	5441.50	2.00
Eternal Ltd.	302.05	2.25
Grasim Ind	2709.10	-13.60
HCL Tech	1529.80	9.70
HDFC Bank	2024.30	17.20
HDFC Life	762.50	-0.80
Hero MotoCorp	4363.70	21.30
Hindalco	695.40	5.35
Hind Unilever	2450.40	-29.30
ICICI Bank	1488.60	15.00
IndusInd Bank	851.15	7.95
Infosys	1574.50	3.60
ITC	414.95	-1.05
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	314.45	3.65
JSW Steel	1033.80	3.10
Kotak Bank	2170.40	10.20
L&T	3484.90	20.30
M&M	3268.80	11.60
Maruti Suzuki	12627.00	135.00
NestleIndia	2452.50	9.00
NTPC	343.05	2.20
ONGC	245.55	-0.86
PowerGrid Corp	299.25	1.45
Reliance Ind	1424.60	11.80
SBI Life	1809.50	0.50
State Bank	820.65	5.65
Shriram Finance Ltd.	654.05	13.90
Sun Pharma	1682.50	4.50
TataConsumerProduct	1062.60	-22.20
Tata Motors	690.10	16.70
Tata Steel	162.77	-0.27
TCS	3179.10	19.50
Tech Mahindra	1546.60	-0.60
Titan	3471.40	-1.00
Trent Ltd.	5359.00	-1.50
UltraTech Cement	12372.00	-80.00
Wipro	261.40	1.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.21	86.53
Euro	101.11	101.49
British Pound	116.70	117.14
Japanese Yen (100)	58.93	59.16
Chinese Yuan	12.04	12.08
Swiss Franc	108.69	109.11
Singapore Dollar	67.48	67.75
Canadian Dollar	63.46	63.72
Malaysian Ringitt	20.38	20.48
Australian Dollar	56.82	57.04

Source:Indian Bank

Infosys Q1 net profit rises 8.7% to ₹6,921 crore

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Infosys has posted a net profit of ₹6,921 crore in the first quarter of FY26, a 8.7% growth over ₹6,368 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

Revenue grew 7.5% to ₹42,279 crore, compared with ₹39,315 crore in the same period in the previous year. Encouraged by a strong deal pipeline, positive customer sentiments from key markets and significant traction for AI and consolidation deals, the company raised FY26 revenue growth guidance to 1-3% in constant currency terms, from a 0-3% range set in the March 2025 quarter. The company maintained its operating margin guidance at 20-22%.

During the quarter, Infosys reported large deal wins valued at $3.8 billion, with 55% of them coming from new clients. Operating profit rose 6.2% to ₹8,803 crore, operating margin stood at 20.8%, lower than 21.1% a year ago. The company also reported cash reserve for the quarter at ₹7,533 crore.

"This was incredible and large deals, mainly focused on consolidation and digital transformation, are working very well for us. We feel quite positive. In the current economic environment, we expect to see more traction in AI, digital transformation, cloud and enterprise applications," said CEO and MD Salil Parekh. "Q1 performance is a clear reflection of our unwavering focus on multiple fronts, resulting in strong growth at 2.6% QoQ, resilient margins at 20.8% and EPS increase of 8.6% YoY," said CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka.

AI tools added ₹11,000-cr. in tax revenue in 4 years: CBDT Chief

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Ravi Agarwal

The Income Tax Department has, over the last four years, encouraged more than one crore taxpayers via use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to voluntarily update tax returns leading to ₹11,000 crore of additional tax revenue for the Government, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Ravi Agarwal said.

Mr. Agarwal added the tools also aided the disclosure of ₹29,000 crore previously-undisclosed foreign assets and ₹1,000 crore foreign income related to cryptocurrencies or virtual digital assets (VDAs), in 2024-25.

He explained, while the tax department generated Annual Information Statements (AIS) for about 40 crore unique taxpayers, nine crore of those actually file returns. The first step for the AI tool is to analyse if any of balance 31 crore should be filing returns.

"The second component is people who have filed returns and if they have filed the right return."

The Income Tax Department then employs a system called NUDGE (Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable) to send letters to taxpayers.

'U.S.' Japan, Indonesia trade pacts hold lessons for India'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The announcements by U.S. President Donald Trump and the White House regarding trade deals with Japan and details of the deal with Indonesia on Tuesday will have significant implications and lessons for a potential trade deal with India, officials and trade experts say.

"It's important to remember these deals have not been officially signed yet," said a source. "It is important to examine the ring-fencing of rice imports that Japan has ensured."

Ex-DG, Foreign Trade Ajay Srivastava said, "The U.S.-Indonesia deal is a clear example of how aggressive U.S. pressure can force countries to slash tariffs, commit to large purchases, and give up control over their own regulations. India must be careful not to fall into the same trap."

Myntra broke foreign investment norms: probe

Reuters
BENGALURU

India's financial crime agency said a probe found Walmart's fashion business Myntra Designs breached laws prohibiting foreign wholesalers from selling to consumers.

The case comes amid growing scrutiny of e-commerce players in India.

The details of the case emerged as India and the United States are struggling to strike a trade deal.

Rare earth supply is secure: Renault India

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

French carmaker Renault India introduced the all-new Renault Triber, a seven-seater car priced starting ₹6,29,995 (ex-showroom). The topmost model is priced at ₹9.16 lakh.

The family car debuted with a redesigned front fascia and is equipped with 35 new features.

Venkatram Mamillapalle, MD, Renault India, said, Triber aimed at claiming its due position in the competitive Indian automobile market

On the rare earth issue, Mr. Mamillapalle, in an interview with *The Hindu*, noted, "We are not worried about rare earth at this point of time because we are secure. Globally, we are so wide and deep that our purchasing team has a lot of efficiency.

"I don't think we see a problem. Until the rare earth producer changes some policy," he added.

"Now the focus is India. The ₹5,400 cr. investment we announced is part of the plan," he said.

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PHED, REGION-II JODHPUR
Tel: 0291-2651730, Email: ace2.jod.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

No. Region-II/Jodhpur/NIB/2025-26/3278-302 Date- 14.07.2025

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for work of **" Work of Construction of Buffer Storage equivalent to One day demand for Balotra and Siwana Towns at village Moothali (Under CM Budget Announcement 2025-26)"** (NIB 12/2025-26) are invited from interested bidders upto 18.00 hrs, 05.08.2025 for Rs. 1676.97 Lacs. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and PHED department website.
UBN No. PHE2526WLOB04602

(Jagdish Prasad Sharma)
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
PHED, REGION-II JODHPUR

DIPR/C/10046/2025

Additional Chief Engineer P.W.D. Zone-II, Jaipur
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Jaipur
Phone :- 0141-2226537 Ex.:- 299
E-mail :- acezoneii@yahoo.com/acejprii.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

File No. 1267 Date- 14/07/2025

NIB No - 12/2025-26

Bids under CRIF Scheme for 08 No. roads "Construction/Strengthening/Renewal & Widening work in Alwar District are invited from interested bidders upto 3-00 PM on 07-08-2025. Other particulars of the bid may be seen on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs.16597.38 lacs.

Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD Zone-II, Jaipur

DIPR/C/10065/2025

Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited
"SARAS SANKUL" J. L. N. MARG, JAIPUR – 302017, Ph. No. 2702501-08 :
Direct: 0141-2710209 : Website : www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in, E-Mail :pur-rcdf-rj@nic.in

No. :- RCDF/Pur/F.(Pkg. Material Items)/2025/17834-76 Dated :- 21st July, 2025

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Single Stage Two Parts unconditional e-Tender/Bids are invited by Rajasthan Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd., Jaipur for the procurement of "Milk Can (Aluminium Alloy) ISI Marked Cap. 40 litre with lid, Aluminium Milk Can Lid for 40 Litre Cap. Milk Cans as per ISI Specifications and Milk Cans (Aluminium Alloy) ISI Marked Cap. 40 litre with Lid under buy back system (UBN No. CDF2526GLRC00551) and Polythene Film for Packing Milk/Chhach/Lassi (Milk Film/Chhach Film/Lassi Film) (UBN No. CDF2526GLRC00552)" from eligible bonafide manufacturers or their authorized suppliers as per details given in the respective bid document. The Complete Bidding Documents can be visited and downloaded from our website **www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.** E-Bids shall be submitted only on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/6722 **General Manager (Purchase)**

जीवन में नये एस-इनाली प्याज

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No.EM/PED-20/2025
No.EM/PED/TECH-11/2024/619
Date : 21/07/2025

Name of the work : Vehicle Speed Detection System at Paradip Port Authority.
Estimated Cost : Rs.1,57,50,050/-.
Last Date & time of submission of bid : dt.12/08/2025 up to 18:00 Hrs.
Refer our website for details : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Executive Engineer (E), PED-I.
PPA/PR/28/2025-2026, dt.23/07/2025

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA
PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM

"e"-Procurement Notice No. 24 /OCCL/2025-26 (on-line)

On-line percentage rate tenders are invited for the following works;

Sl No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of work	Bid Security (through on-line transfer/as per DTCN) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability & Submission of tender of Tender (on-line)
01	Improvement to Chandanpur branch canal left embankment road from Bidyadharpur to Parbatipur.	Nimapara Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/07/2025-26	Rs.2.28 Crore	Rs.2,28,000/-	6 (Six) Calendar month	From 24/07/2025, 03.30 PM to 13/08/2025, 05.30 PM
02	Construction of Trough wall in Chandanpur branch canal from RD 28.364 to 29.0 km & Rench sasan 2L minor from 0.3 km to 2.0 km.		OCCL-HQP/08/2025-26	Rs.1.54 Crore	Rs.1,54,000/-	6 (Six) Calendar month	
03	Construction of Trough wall in Badatara Sub-minor and Hantasara minor		OCCL-HQP/09/2025-26	Rs.1.69 Crore	Rs.1,69,000/-	6 (Six) Calendar month	
04	Improvement to Kundhei distributary left embankment road from Srikoili to Baidapada		OCCL-HQP/10/2025-26	Rs.2.23 Crore	Rs.2,23,000/-	6 (Six) Calendar month	
05	Construction of Trough wall in Amaranga and Adhana Minor		OCCL-HQP/11/2025-26	Rs.1.62 Crore	Rs.1,62,000/-	6 (Six) Calendar month	

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Tender : 14.08.2025, 12.00 Noon onwards
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : *https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in*

MANAGING DIRECTOR

CAD-1220 OIPR-34120/11/0044/2526

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
[Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001]
{Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647, Email-ms.smshospital@gmail.com}

No. 1566 Store/SMS/MII/2024 Jaipur dated, the 11/7/25

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for two years rate contract for procurement of Biochemistry Reagents and Kits are invited from interested bidders upto 21/08/25 on 5:00. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN. No. MCJ2526GLRC00037

Medical Superintendent
S.M.S. Hospital,
Jaipur

DIPR/C/10160/2025

रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड
Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
गुणवत्ता, गति एवं पारदर्शिता
(A Government of India Enterprise)

No. RVNL/S&T/EoI/2025/01

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI)

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways invites online EoI from eligible Signalling & Telecom (S&T) contractors, RDSO approved OEMs/ Manufactures/ Venders who are willing to associate with RVNL for upcoming Projects in India and abroad.
Further details are available on https://rvnl.ewizard.in
Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of the EoI can also be seen in the above website.
Last date for submission of application **(online mode only)** through **https://rvnl.ewizard.in** is **18.08.2025 (upto 17:00 hrs)**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU - HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT DEPARTMENT
ARULMIGU RAMANATHASWAMY TEMPLE
Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.

e-TENDER NOTICE No.858/2023/A3 Dated. 09.07.2025
Item wise Rate tender

The Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer of Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple invites e-Tender for the following work. The tender documents and e-tender schedule (BOQ) will be available in **www.tntenders.gov.in** from **28.07.2025** to **29.08.2025** upto **3.00 p.m.** Received tenders will be opened at **3.30 p.m** on **29.08.2025** through online. EMD should be remitted through online only. All documents can be downloaded from the above website. The Contractors eligibility condition or any other conditions available in the tender document, if corrected or modified will be intimated through the above website only and will not be published in Newspaper.

Sl. No	Name Of Work	Tender Value in Rs. (Including GST)	EMD Amount Rs.	Period Of Contract	Contractors Qualification
1)	Improvement of Amenities including Development work at Agni Theertham in Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District – Two Cover System	Rs. 57,04,98,044/-	Rs. 28,62,500/-	36 Months	Government of Tamil Nadu, HR&CE Department Registered, Live and Qualified Black stone Sthapathy/Sirppi – Black Stone (or) Registered, Live and class I contractors of Tamilnadu Government Departments/State Government Undertakings with a Letter of Consent from Black Stone Sthapathy/Sirppi should be attached.

Fit person / Joint Commissioner
Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram

DIPR/ 3759 /TENDER/2025

Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer
Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram

DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli forces have killed over 1,000 aid-seekers in Gaza since May: UN

AFP

More than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since May while trying to get food in the Gaza Strip, mostly near aid sites run by an American contractor, the UN human rights office said on Tuesday. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation rejected what it said were "false and exaggerated statistics" from the United Nations. AP

WASHINGTON

Trump announces 'massive' Japan trade deal; auto tariffs cut to 15%

REUTERS

U.S. President Trump announced on Tuesday a "massive" trade deal with Japan. Without the agreement, tariffs on Japanese exports would have risen on August 1. Japan, investing $550 billion in the U.S., will see auto tariffs cut to 15%. Meanwhile, China-U.S. trade talks start next week. AFP

BERLIN

Germany seeks U.S. guarantee before sending Patriots to Ukraine

REUTERS

Germany needs firm U.S. assurances that it will quickly receive replacement Patriot systems if it sends two units to Ukraine. Defence Minister Pistorius on Wednesday insisted on "watertight" U.S. guarantees. European allies offered to finance more, but concern grows about security gaps before replacements arrive. AFP

TEHRAN

Tehran says it 'confronted, warned' a U.S. destroyer in Gulf of Oman

GETTY IMAGES

Iranian forces confronted the *USS Fitzgerald* in the Gulf of Oman, warning it to stay out of Iranian-claimed waters, state television reported on Thursday. An Iranian helicopter flew over the destroyer, reiterated warnings, and "forced the U.S. ship to turn away". There was no immediate comment from the U.S. Navy. AFP

'Mass starvation' spreading across Gaza, warn more than 100 NGOs

The groups called for an immediate negotiated ceasefire, the opening of all land crossings and the free flow of aid through UN-led mechanisms; Gaza's civil defence agency says Israeli strikes killed 17 people overnight, including a pregnant woman

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

More than 100 aid organisations and human rights groups warned on Wednesday that "mass starvation" was spreading in Gaza, as the U.S. said its top envoy was heading to Europe for talks on a possible ceasefire and aid corridor.

Israel is facing mounting international pressure over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, where more than two million people are facing severe shortages of food and other essentials after 21 months of conflict.

Brink of death: A 2-year-old Palestinian boy with his brothers at the Al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City, on Wednesday. AFP

On the ground, the Israeli military said it was operating in Gaza City and the north, and had hit dozens of "terror targets" across the territory. Gaza's civil defence agency said that Israeli strikes killed 17 people overnight, including a pregnant woman in Gaza City.

A statement with 111 signatories, including Doctors Without Borders (MSF), Save the Children and Oxfam, warned that "our colleagues and those we serve are wasting away".

The groups called for an immediate negotiated ceasefire, the opening of all land crossings and the free flow of aid through UN-led mechanisms. The U.S. said its envoy Steve Witkoff will head to Europe this week for talks on Gaza and may then visit the West Asia.

The organisations said warehouses with tonnes of supplies were sitting untouched just outside the territory, and even inside, as they were blocked from delivering the goods.

"Palestinians are trapped in a cycle of hope and heartbreak, waiting for assistance and ceasefires, only to wake up to worsening conditions," the signatories said.

"It is not just physical torment, but psychological. Survival is dangled like a mirage," they added.

"The humanitarian system cannot run on false promises. Humanitarians cannot operate on shifting timelines or wait for political commitments that fail to deliver access."

The head of Gaza's largest hospital said on Tuesday 21 children had died due to starvation in the Palestinian territory over the previous three days.

Zelenskyy faces backlash amid anti-graft law protests

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian activists called for more protests on Wednesday against a law they say weakens the country's anti-corruption watchdogs, following the first major demonstration against the country's government in more than three years of war. The legislation has also drawn rebukes from European Union officials and international rights groups.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, under pressure as the change threatened to endanger his public support at a critical time in the war, convened the heads of Ukraine's key anti-corruption and security agencies on Wednesday morning in a response to the outcry

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

against his decision to approve the new law that was passed by Parliament.

"We all hear what society says," Mr. Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram after the meeting. But he insisted the new legal framework was needed to crack down harder on corruption.

"Criminal cases should not drag on for years without verdicts, and those working against Ukraine must not feel comfortable or immune from punishment," the Ukrainian leader said.

He said all government agencies agreed to work constructively and respond to public expectations for fairness and effectiveness. A detailed joint action plan is expected within two weeks, he said.

The legislation tightens government oversight of two key anti-corruption agencies. Critics say the step could significantly weaken the independence of those agencies and grant Mr. Zelenskyy's circle greater influence over investigations.

Fighting entrenched corruption is crucial for Ukraine's aspirations to join the EU and maintain access to billions of dollars in Western aid.

Failing to take action against climate change could violate law: ICJ

Associated Press
THE HAGUE

The United Nations' top court in a landmark advisory opinion on Wednesday said countries could be in violation of international law if they fail to take measures to protect the planet from climate change, and nations harmed by its effects could be entitled to reparations.

Advocates immediately cheered the International Court of Justice (ICJ) opinion on nations' obligations to tackle climate change and the consequences they may face if they don't.

"Failure of a state to take appropriate action to protect the climate system ... may constitute an internationally wrongful act," court President Yuji Iwasawa said during the hearing. He called the climate crisis "an existential problem of planetary proportions that imperils all forms of life and the very health of our planet".

Activists protest outside ICJ, at The Hague on Wednesday.

The case was led by the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu and backed by more than 130 countries.

Bangladesh rights group demands independent probe into jet crash

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The crash of a military aircraft in Dhaka that killed a significant number of students and teachers must be thoroughly investigated, and the interim government should release the names of the victims, said a human rights group monitoring the situation in Bangladesh.

At a media event in New Delhi on Wednesday, Mohammed Ali Siddiqui, secretary-general of the Bangladesh Human Rights Watch, said the investigation should be "above politics" and expressed solidarity with those affected by the recent violent clashes in Gopalganj, home to the memorial to Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mohammed Ali Siddiqui addressing the media at the Press Club of India in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The event was held even as Chief Adviser Professor Mohammed Yunus assured the affected families of relief and compensation. Earlier on Tuesday, protests over the crash in Dhaka escalated into clashes with security forces, leaving several injured. Mr. Siddiqui said the interim government has "failed to respond to the legitimate grievances of the grieving public" and said, "On what should have been an ordinary day, a training jet of Bangladesh Air Force crashed onto the school grounds, resulting in the deaths and injuries of many innocent children, dedicated teachers and caring guardians, and the young pilot, leaving the nation devastated."

Bangladesh Human Rights Watch added that former Ministers from the ousted Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League had been scheduled to participate but, in light of the tragic crash involving a Chinese-made F-7 jet, top Awami League leaders in New Delhi chose not to attend.

He further told the reporters that the Awami League, banned under the interim government, will hold events in India in the near future. At the event, his team distributed a pamphlet documenting the personal details of Awami League MPs who were sent to prison.

U.K. puts sanctions to deter migrant influx

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

The U.K. imposed sanctions on Wednesday on more than two dozen people, groups and suppliers from the Balkans, the West Asia and China accused of helping migrants cross the Channel.

The move came as the government faces political pressure to stem migrant arrivals on small boats from northern France, at record levels.

The asset freezes and travel bans announced target individuals and entities "driving irregular migration to the U.K.".

Saudi Arabia announces $5 billion in Syria investments

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

A Saudi delegation visiting Damascus on Wednesday inked investment and partnership deals valued at $5 billion to help rebuild war-battered Syria, the oil-rich Gulf kingdom announced.

Saudi Arabia has been a major backer of the new Syrian government.

The delegation of some 150 investors and representatives of the Saudi public and private sectors, led by Investment Minister Khalid Al-Falih, attended a forum in Damascus on Wednesday.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Advt. No. 06/2025/IISER-T/Rect./27.05.2025 Date: July 22, 2025

CORRIGENDUM - II

Last date for submitting the online applications for Advt. No. 06/2025 is extended till 17.00 Hrs on August 05, 2025. However, the crucial date for determining age, experience, etc., shall remain the same, i.e., July 07, 2025.
The rest of the contents of the advertisement remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Registrar (i/c)

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
No.67, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
Ph.: 044-22301094-97, 22354415-16/18.
Fax: 044-22350834 & 22354614. E-mail: purchase.corp@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description	Due date
252613 002817	Enlistment of Freight Forwarders for Offering Ocean Freight for Export of Paper / Board in 20' / 40' Containers.	06.08.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/3771/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
No. 55, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Seshadripuram,BENGALURU-560 020. Ph.:080-23460085

No: KSDB/Commr/CE/RAY/2025-26 Dated:02.07.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) Bengaluru invites item rate tenders as per SBD KW-4, for the **Construction of new Houses & Balance works for slum dwellers of Rajarajeshwarinagara Constituency under RAY scheme** from the eligible class-1 registered KPWD/CPWD contractors.

Calendar of Events	
Date and Time for Pre-Proposal Conference	**31.07.2025 at 11:00 AM**
last date and time for receipt of tender Documents	**07.08.2025 upto 5.30 PM**
Time and Date of Opening of Tender Document (Qualification Criteria) Technical bid	**11.08.2025 at 11:00 AM**
Place of Pre-Proposal Conference and Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board #55, 1st Floor, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020 Phone: +91 80 23564651, 23462436 Email ID: ksdbce@gmail.com Website: www.ksdb.karnataka.gov.in
Opening of Financial bid	Will be intimated to the qualified tenderers.

If there are any changes to the above notification, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. Tender Documents, schedule, specifications are available on the website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tender form fees & EMD details are available on the kpp portal. EMD and tender processing fees shall be paid using e-procurement payment modes only. Tender application must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the works and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of tender date.

DIPR/CP/JA/1997/2025-26
Sd/- Commissioner,
Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bangalore

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Annual Maintenance of Non-Residential Buildings outside custom bound area in VOC Port for a period of One year (on Unit Rate basis)	75.00 Lakhs	1,50,000/-	13.08.2025
2.	Annual Maintenance of Residential Quarters in VOC Port for a period of One year (on Unit Rate basis)	75.00 Lakhs	1,50,000/-	13.08.2025
3	Providing drainage, strengthening the sides of warehouses, and resurfacing Dr.Ambedkar Road to enhance structural stability and improve accessibility	9,64,66,523/-	19,29,330/-	13.08.2025

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
VOCPA

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Waste Water Management-West)
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

No: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-P-W) DCE(WWM-E&W)TA-2/800/2025-26 Dated: 22.07.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (3rd Call)
(only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders in Two Stage Tender System from eligible contractors for the Work of supplying and fixing submersible ultra heavy duty dredging vertical pumpset installation of RECD to existing DG sets, installation of solar panels, adopting CMMS Software and Total Feacal coliform analayser for the 75MLD STP Mailasandra.

Amount Put to Tender: ₹ 239.41 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 3.59 Lakhs
Last date for submission of Completed Tender documents on **02.08.2025** upto **16:00** Hrs. Tenders will be opened on **04.08.2025** at **17:00** Hrs. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/SI/1984/2025-26
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM-West)

IN ELITE CLUB

Rahul completes 1,000 Test runs in England, the fifth Indian to do so

PTI

India batter K.L. Rahul on Wednesday completed 1,000 Test runs in England on the opening day of the fourth Test at Old Trafford. He became only the fifth Indian to do so after Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sunil Gavaskar, and Virat Kohli. In 12 Tests in England, he has scored four centuries and two fifties.

TAKING A CHANCE

Stokes puts India in to bat, looks to break the Old Trafford curse

GETTY IMAGES

England captain Ben Stokes won the toss and put India in to bat in the fourth Test against India in Manchester on Wednesday. Stokes took a gamble again — no team which has won the toss and put the opposition in to bat has ever won a Test at Old Trafford. It will be interesting to see how things pan out for Stokes and England.

ON SONG

Mhatre hammers quickfire century in drawn second 'Test'

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Skipper Ayush Mhatre scored 126 (80b, 13x4, 6x6) as India u-19 made 290 for six chasing 355 before rain and bad light ended play on the final day of the second 'Test' against England u-19 at Chelmsford on Wednesday. **The scores:** England U-19 309 & 324/5 decl. in 62 overs drew with India U-19 279 & 290/6 in 43 overs (Mhatre 126, Kundu 65).

SURMOUNTED

Milan secures win at crash-marred rainy finale in stage 17

AFP

Italy's Jonathan Milan won a crash-marred finale to stage 17 of the Tour de France in lashing rain on Wednesday, extending his lead in the sprint points race. Overall leader Tadej Pogacar and his closest rival Jonas Vingegaard finished safely despite a mass fall 800m from the finish line at Valence at the foot of the Alps.

On a roll: Divya continued her incredible run. FIDE

Divya outwits Tan, enters title clash

CHESS WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BATUMI (GEORGIA)

International Master Divya Deshmukh stormed into the final, defeating former World champion Zhongyi Tan of China in the second game of the semifinals for a 1.5-0.5 win in the FIDE Women's World Cup here on Wednesday.

Divya became the first Indian to make it to the Candidates' tournament.

In the second semifinal, Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy drew with top seed Tingjie Lei of China.

The two will play the tiebreaks to decide who makes it to the summit clash against Divya.

The stakes were high as the final berth also ensured Divya's entry into the women's Candidates' tournament next year to decide the challenger to Ju Wenjun, the reigning women's World champion.

Having already eliminated second seed Zoner Jhu of China and compatriot D. Harika in the quarterfinals, Divya continued to be the giant-killer. And her match against Tan was a testament to her growing skills.

With the Indian boys making a great headway at the top of the chess world, it was already time for the girls to have a say and Divya is the new girl on the block after R. Vaishali.

In the other semifinal, playing white, Humpy faced the Slav defence and went for the iconic exchange variation that normally yields to either equal or giving white the better prospect.

Nothing special

The opening yielded nothing special for Humpy but she got the bishop pair against two knights to prepare for an advantage.

The queens were traded as early as the 19th move and the two eventually reached a rook and pawn endgame wherein the Indian had an extra pawn.

Jaiswal and Sai Sudharsan's knocks drive India's steady progress on opening day

The opener forges a 94-run alliance with partner Rahul while the No. 3 makes his maiden Test fifty; Pant hobbles off after being hit on the right toe

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

Overcast skies, a forecast of rain, and doubts about the wicket made the toss a tricky call. But winning for the fourth successive time in the series on Wednesday, Ben Stokes promptly asked India to bat at Old Trafford.

While Stokes expected to make use of the conditions, his counterpart Shubman Gill thought it was a 'good toss to lose' as he was confident that the surface would remain favourable to the batters.

Despite England's persistent lines, and some help in movement, India managed to dominate most sessions and rode on fifties from Yashasvi Jaiswal (58, 107b, 10x4, 1x6) and Sai Sudharsan (61, 151b, 7x4) to end the opening day at 264 for four.

As expected, India brought in Sai Sudharsan at No.3, benching Karun Nair, and the move paid off as the southpaw built pivotal partnerships – with Jaiswal and then Rishabh Pant – to steady the middle-order.

On the way, he also notched up his maiden Test fifty. Though the Indian camp would be satisfied with the way the batters assessed the conditions and built their innings, Pant's injury would be a huge concern.

At ease

He looked at ease and had added 72 runs for the fourth wicket with Sai Sudharsan when he was hit on the right toe while trying to reverse sweep a Chris Woakes yorker.

Pant was taken off the pitch in a golf cart as his foot, already swollen, was bleeding profusely. The batter was later rushed to the hospital for further treatment and scans.

The injury broke the momentum and Sai Sudharsan, who looked composed, top-edged a Stokes delivery down to long leg and was caught by Brydon Carse. However, Ravindra Jadeja and Shardul Thakur ensured that there were no further dents before stumps were drawn early due to poor light.

Earlier, Jaiswal and K.L. Rahul forged a 94-run opening partnership and ensured that England went wicketless in the first session.

While Jaiswal took his time before going past 1,000 Test runs against England, becoming the joint second-quickest Indian batter to the milestone, alongside Mohammad Azharuddin, Rahul looked steady.

After Rahul edged Woakes to the third slip shortly, India was soon reduced to 140 for three when Stokes trapped Gill in front and left-arm spinner Liam Dawson dismissed Jaiswal. But in the end, India took things in stride and recovered.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Brook b Dawson 58 (*107b, 10x4, 1x6*), K.L. Rahul c Crawley b Woakes 46 (*98b, 4x4*), B. Sai Sudharsan c Carse b Stokes 61 (*151b, 7x4*), Shubman Gill lbw b Stokes 12 (*23b, 1x4*), Rishabh Pant retired hurt 37 (*48b, 2x4, 1x6*), Ravindra Jadeja (batting) 19 (*37b, 3x4*), Shardul Thakur (batting) 19 (*36b, 2x4*); Extras (lb-6, nb-2, w-4): 12;

Total (for four wkts. in 83 overs): 264.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-94 (Rahul, 29.6 overs), 2-120 (Jaiswal, 40.1), 3-140 (Gill, 49.1), 4-235 (Sai Sudharsan, 73.5).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Woakes 17-4-43-1, Archer 16-2-44-0, Carse 16-1-60-0, Stokes 14-2-47-2, Dawson 15-1-45-1, Root 5-0-19-0.

Toss: England.

Pulling his weight: Sai Sudharsan was involved in two pivotal partnerships. GETTY IMAGES

Double delight in England a shot in the arm for Women in Blue

Press Trust of India
CHESTER-LE-STREET

A double series win in England may have boosted the confidence of the Indian women's team ahead of the World Cup but skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said her side will need to "start from ball one" when they return home to prepare for the global showpiece.

Harmanpreet led from the front as India defeated England by 13 runs in a high-scoring decider here on Tuesday to clinch the three-match series 2-1, following their 3-2 triumph in the WT20Is earlier.

India will next face seven-time reigning world champions Australia in a three-match WODI series at home beginning September 14, before co-hosting the Women's World Cup with Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2.

"Well, every game and situation is different. And at home, conditions will be different," Harmanpreet who was adjudged both player of the match and player-of-the-series, said at the post-match press conference here on Tuesday.

Beginning afresh: After the memorable ODI series triumph, India skipper Harmanpreet stressed on starting all over again and preparing for the upcoming World Cup at home. REUTERS

"But whenever you are playing the next game, you have to start from ball one and I think this series will definitely give us a lot of confidence.

"I am really happy all the girls are coming up with positive mindset and working really hard on their fitness.

"Nowadays women's cricket is improving day by day. All the teams, are batting really well. They are improving in bowling also. So I think every team is improving day by day and now it's only about who is going to play best cricket on that particular day."

The skipper having reached the 4,000 runs milestone in Women's ODIs said: "It's always a great moment, adding those runs for your country. It means a lot to me and I wish to continue more."

Harmanpreet was also full of praise for the young seamer Kranti Goud, who grabbed six for 52 to restrict England to 305 in the series-decider and became the second-youngest Indian woman after Deepti Sharma to take a five-wicket haul in ODIs.

"She's been really impressive whenever she was on the field.

"We went with four spinners but we knew that Kranti is someone who can always give us a breakthrough in the initial stages."

Constantine, Tarkovic and Jamil in shortlist

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The experienced Anglo-Cypriot Stephen Constantine, Stefan Tarkovic of Slovakia and home-bred Khalid Jamil were the three candidates shortlisted on Wednesday by the technical committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for the post of head coach for the National men's team.

Out of the three, Jamil is tipped to be the frontrunner for the job. Former India international Renedy Singh's name also did the rounds but an AIFF source said the Manipuri, who is currently the assistant coach of Bengaluru FC, was not among those who made the cut.

The technical committee, headed by former India captain I.M. Vijayan, also had Shabbir Ali, Victor Amalraj, Climax Lawrence, Harjinder Singh, Santosh Singh and Pinky Magar.

The AIFF received 170 applications, which included big names like former Liverpool stars Robbie Fowler and Harry Kewell.

Honoured to have a stand named after me: Engineer

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

It was an emotional Wednesday morning for Farokh Engineer and Clive Lloyd as Lancashire honoured the legends and unveiled two stands named after them at the iconic Old Trafford.

Engineer, who played County cricket for the club for nearly a decade and guided Lancashire to the Gillette Cup title four times, became the first player from India to have a stand named after him in England. Joined by his family and old friend Dilip Vengsarkar, also a former India captain, Engineer looked excited as he happily obliged spectators with selfies and autographs.

"This is a great honour to have a stand named after me at Old Trafford, where I've had some great memories," Engineer told *The Hindu*.

Lloyd, who captained the West Indies to two World Cup victories, and Engineer joined Lancashire in the 1960s, shortly after English counties were allowed to sign overseas players. They both had memorable outings with the iconic club as Engineer played 175 matches in nine seasons for Lancashire, scoring 5,942 runs, while for Lloyd, his 30 First Class centuries were scored for the club in his 18-season long stint.

Icons: Engineer and Lloyd had memorable outings with Lancashire. GETTY IMAGES

"It's a great honour, (and it's great) to be back at this ground," Lloyd said.

As he looked at his picture near the gate, it was a walk down memory lane for the 87-year-old Engineer. "Those were incredible times, and people would come from various corners of the town to watch Lancashire play. With a huge fan base, we were one of the most famous one-day teams in those days," he said.

While the former wicketkeeper-batter was bestowed with the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award last year, no stand has been named after him at his homeground – Wankhede Stadium, which recently unveiled stands named after India captains Rohit Sharma and the late Ajit Wadekar.

INBRIEF

Venus becomes second oldest woman to win a WTA match

Venus Williams became the oldest to win a WTA singles match since Martina Navratilova (47) at Wimbledon in 2004 defeating fellow American Peyton Stearns 6-3, 6-4 to reach the second round of the WTA and ATP DC Open.

Aditya, Paras and Advani advance to the quarterfinals

Second seed Aditya Mehta of India staged a comeback against Pakistan's Ahsan Ramzan to enter quarterfinals of IBSF World 6-Red snooker in Manama on Wednesday. He will meet Manan Chandra, who defeated Qatar's Ahmed Saif. Reigning champion Kamal Chawla bowed out in the round-of-32 against Fung Kwok Wai. Paras Gupta and Pankaj Advani also advanced to the last-eight stage.

The results (Indians unless mentioned):
Pre-quarterfinals: Paras Gupta bt Pan Yiming (Chn) 4-1 (46-0, 35-1, 20-34, 32-23, 32-13); Pankaj Advani bt Tomasz Skalski (Pol) 4-2 (0-74, 50-0, 42-8, 48-0, 4-52, 45-4); Manan Chandra bt Ahmed Saif (Qat) 4-2 (30-18, 54-0, 70 (70) -0, 18-42, 0-41, 36-25); Aditya Mehta bt Ahsan Ramzan (Pak) 4-3 (25-37, 17-47, 37-27, 50-2, 0-50, 49-4, 71(71) -0).

BCCI set to attend ACC meeting virtually

The Board of Control for Cricket in India is set to virtually attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), to be held in Dhaka on Thursday. The meeting will seal the fate of the Asia Cup, scheduled to be hosted by India in September. Over the last week, in the backdrop of the political tensions between India and Bangladesh, the BCCI had threatened to boycott the AGM. But on Wednesday, a senior BCCI functionary, preferring anonymity, confirmed to *The Hindu* that the BCCI will "act as a big brother and attend the tournament virtually". It is understood that besides BCCI, Sri Lanka Cricket will also attend the proceedings via videoconferencing. It is also understood that attempts were made to have Afghanistan and Oman to skip the AGM in order to ensure lack of a quorum at the AGM, but the ACC chief Mohsin Naqvi ensured the meeting wasn't put in jeopardy. The BCCI thus agreed to join the proceedings. The AGM, in all likelihood, will confirm that the Asia Cup, uncertain in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, will be hosted by India in the UAE. While a proposal asking BCCI to host the tournament in India is also likely to be tabled, UAE has emerged as the consensus venue for all the major Boards involved.

– Amol Karhadkar

LIVE TELECAST

England vs India: 4th Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

T20I tri-series: Zimbabwe vs New Zealand, FanCode, 4.30 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 p.m.

Bangladesh vs Pakistan: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 p.m.

West Indies vs Australia: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 a.m. (Friday)

Sindhu downs Miyazaki, sets up clash with Unnati

Satwik and Chirag have a strong outing in a straight-game win over the Japanese duo of Mitsuhashi and Okamura; end of the road for Rutaparna and Swetaparna

CHINA OPEN

Press Trust of India
CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

P.V. Sindhu overcame world number six Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan 21-15, 8-21, 21-17 to make a promising start to her campaign at the China Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

"It was a much-awaited win for me. The first round was very important for me to cross. It was three games (contest) and even in the third set, it was important for me to take the lead from the beginning because one side was very disadvantaged," Sindhu said.

"So, it started off really good, but in the second game, it was hard for me to control. And in the third game, it was important that I take the lead and maintain that."

"It was important for me to win these matches so that it will also give me a moral boost and also that confidence. Because sometimes I've been coming close, yet I've been losing. I need to continue this tempo and keep going."

Promising start: Sindhu broke her run of early exits, overcoming Miyazaki in 62 minutes. AFP

She will now face fellow Indian Unnati Hooda. The 17-year-old Unnati stunned Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour 21-11, 21-16 in a 36-minute match.

The world No. 15 men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also made a strong start, defeating Japan's Kenya Mitsuhashi and Hiroki Okamura 21-13, 21-9 in just 31 minutes.

However, it was disappointment for the women's doubles team of Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda, who lost to Hong Kong's Nga Ting Yeung and Pui Lam Yeung 12-21, 13-21.

The results (first round):
Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Tomoka Miyazaki 21-15, 8-21, 21-17; Unnati Hooda bt Kirsty Gilmour 21-11, 21-16.
Doubles: Nga Ting Yeung & Pui Lam Yeung bt Rutaparna Panda & Swetaparna Panda 21-12, 21-13.
Men: Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Kenya Mitsuhashi & Hiroki Okamura 21-13, 21-9.

Aryan enters Segovia Challenger quarters

Sports Bureau

Aryan Shah beat Saba Purtseladze of Georgia 6-4, 6-4 in the pre-quarterfinals of the €91,250 Challenger tennis in Segovia, Spain, on Wednesday. He will play sixth seed Oliver Crawford of Britain next.

Other results: €181,250 Challenger, Zug, Switzerland: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Arjun Kadhe & Vijay Sundary Prashanth bt Jiri Barnat & Filip Duda (Cze) 6-1, 6-4; Siddhant Banthia & Alexander Donski (Bul) bt Victor Corena (Rou) Sergio Gornes (Esp) 6-7(1), 6-2, [10-5].

$30,000 ITF men, Champaign, USA: Singles (first round): Dhakshineswar Suresh bt Ryan Fishback (USA) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

$30,000 ITF men, Denia, Spain: Singles (first round): Alejandro Pertusa (Esp) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-1, 6-1; Miguel Damas (Esp) bt Prajwal Dev 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Australia spoils Russell's farewell

Signing off: Russell delighted the faithful at Sabina Park during his cameo. AFP

AUSTRALIA IN WI

Agence France-Presse
KINGSTON (JAMAICA)

Andre Russell struck 36 off 15 balls in his final innings before retirement on Tuesday but could not save the West Indies from losing the second Twenty20 International against Australia here. The 37-year-old all-rounder was unable to script a fairytale farewell to his glittering T20 career, but departed to a standing ovation at his home Sabina Park ground after hitting four sixes and two fours.

But a record 131-run stand by Josh Inglis, who made 78 not out, and Cameron Green (56 not out) saw Australia race to an eight-wicket win with more than four overs to spare.

The scores: West Indies 172/8 in 20 overs (King 51, Russell 36; Zampa 3/29) lost to Australia 173/2 in 15.2 overs (Inglis 78 n.o. Green 56 n.o.). **Toss:** Australia. **PoM**: Inglis. Australia won by eight wickets with four overs and four balls to spare.

Fencer Bhavani hopes to put best foot forward at the World championship

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

India's top fencer Bhavani Devi is geared up for the individual women's sabre event of the World championships beginning on July 26.

Not being able to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics made Bhavani's days and nights longer. She didn't speak to her family for a while drowning in sorrow, disappointment and introspection.

Like a true professional, she, however, quickly regrouped and has been training with her coach Christian Bauer in Padua (Italy) despite results not being favourable in quite a few tournaments.

Never a quitter, the 31-year-old is preparing to put her best foot forward in the individual women's sabre event in the World fencing championships at Tbilisi (Georgia) from July 26 (the tournament is from July 22 to 30).

"This is going to be my fifth World championships in the senior category. I want this to be my best. My best result in the Worlds was reaching the round-of-16 in the 2019 edition. I am looking forward to my event on 26th," Bhavani told *The Hindu* in a recent interaction from Padua.

Ready to duel: A fit-again Bhavani is eyeing strong performances. FILE PHOTO

Training with Bauer has been an experience in itself, Bhavani said. "He is a strict taskmaster. He is one of the best coaches in the world. It's not easy to train under him. We have to learn and adapt quickly. Our working relationship is getting better."

Faith in the process

In the last 12 months, Bhavani has participated in two Asian championships (Kuwait and Bali), four World Cups in Oran (Algeria), Greece, Peru and Sint-Niklaas (Belgium) and two Grands Prix in Seoul (South Korea) and Tunisia. Her best has been reaching the round-of-32 in Oran.

While admitting that her performance has not been great, Bhavani said she is slowly getting to her best.

"I feel in the last three competitions, there has been improvement, especially after the Asian championship in Bali (from June 17 to 23, 2025; Bhavani reached the pre-quarterfinals). I felt as if I was playing well as I did during training sessions. Mentally and physically, I am feeling better," the Tokyo Olympian and the first fencer from India to make it to the quadrennial event, said.

Bhavani said her faith in the process kept her going, the nagging shoulder problem notwithstanding.

"I had pain in my (right) shoulder during the 2024 Asian championships. There were few who suggested I go for surgery. In August-September 2024, I did rehab in Bengaluru under physiotherapist Yash Pandey. I focused on my recovery and am perfectly fine now," she said, while thanking Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu for its continued support.

Parneet, Kushal, Sahil in semifinals

ARCHERY

None of the Indian recurve archers, including Olympian Bhajan Kaur, could make it to the medal rounds.

Sports Bureau

Parneet Kaur, Kushal Dalal and Sahil Jadhav made it to the compound individual semifinals and remained in medal contention in archery competitions of the World University Games in Essen, Germany, on Wednesday.

In the women's section, the top-ranked Parneet got a first round bye and beat Kazakhstan's Aizhan Seidakhmetova 146-145, Singapore's Low Ellie Teng 148-144 and France's Alyssia Chambraud 144-141 to reach the last-four. She will meet Korean Kim Sooyeon.

Second-ranked Kushal got two byes before getting past Frenchman Victor Bouleau 148-147, Turkey's Yunus Arslan 148-148 (shoot-off: 10-9) and Germany's Ruven Fluss 148-146 to enter the semifinals.

Sahil, too, received two byes and defeated Chinese Taipei's Huang Jin Le 145-143, Slovenia's Aljaz Brenk 148-147 and Great Britain's Finlay Clark 146-142 to set up an all-Indian semis clash with Kushal.

Among notable performers, Avneet Kaur (compound) and Basanti Mahato (recurve) exited in the quarterfinals.

None of the Indian recurve archers, including Olympian Bhajan Kaur, could make it to the medal rounds.

East Bengal steamrollers South United

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Emami East Bengal asserted its superiority with a convincing 5-0 win over debutant South United FC in the opening Group-A match of the 134th edition of the Durand Cup football tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.

Defender Lalchungnunga opened the scoring early in the first half before Saul Crespo netted a penalty to make it 2-0.

Bipin Singh made a fine debut for East Bengal as he found the net within minutes after his introduction late in the second half. Dimitrios Diamantakos, also coming in as a substitute, scored from a free-kick to enhance East Bengal's tally before Naorem Mahesh Singh provided the finishing touch with a nice long-ranger in the penultimate minute.

Taking off: Lalchungnunga celebrates after firing in the first salvo. DEBASISH BHADURI

Outplayed

It was a harrowing debut for South United as the Bengaluru-based team was unable to find its footing against the might of the ISL side East Bengal, which dominated the action with over 70% ball possession.

South United, whose best show so far has been playing in the I-League 2, had to rely on its local league recruits against a much-higher budget opponent which also fielded three foreigners.

The result: Group-A: Emami East Bengal 5 (Lalchungnunga 12, Crespo 37-pen, Bipin Singh 79, Diamantakos 86, Mahesh Singh 89) bt South United FC 0.

Tanvi Sharma, Vennala, Tanvi Reddy advance

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SOLO (INDONESIA)

Tanvi Sharma stormed into the women's singles third round, headlining a strong day for India at the Asia junior badminton championships here on Wednesday.

The second-seeded Tanvi outclassed UAE's Vaidehi Kalidasan 21-6, 21-6 in the second round after receiving a bye in the opening round. She will now face China's Shi Si Chen. Vennala Kalagotla and Tanvi Reddy also progressed to the third round with convincing wins.

Vennala brushed aside Kazakhstan's Alissa Kuleshova 21-6, 21-10 before notching up a 21-18, 21-16 win over Indonesia's Auberta Zerlina.

Tanvi Reddy, who got a bye in the first round, cruised past Macau's Ung Cheok Ian 21-9, 21-10.

In men's singles, Ansh Negi and Pranauv Ram Nagalingam made it to the third round.

Negi, who received a bye in the first round, beat Singapore's Ding Han Jin 21-16, 21-15. Pranauv, who was also handed a bye, defeated Myanmar's Lal Zuidika 21-15, 21-7 in straight games.

Negi will face Minh Son Le of Vietnam in the third round, while Pranauv will lock horns with Singapore's Tee Kai Ze.

In mixed doubles, the Indian pair of Vishnu Kedhar Kode and Keerthy Manchala advanced to the third round with a 22-20, 16-21, 21-19 win over Hong Kong's Cheng Ying Kit and Hung Ho Yan.